Saturday October 4 1997

Abu Dhabi D 8.50 Albania US$ 2 Andorra FF 10 Austria AS 30 Bahrain BD 0.85 Belgium BF 65 Bulgaria LV 580 Canada C$ 3.95 Croatia KN 12.50 Cyprus C£ 1.00 Czech Republic KC56 Denmark DK 15 Dubai D 8.50 Egypt E£ 6.50 Estonia K 30 Finland FM 12 France FF 10 Germany DM 3.50 Greece D 450 Hong Kong HK$ 25 Hungary F 220 Iceland IK 165 Israel NIS 11.50 Italy L 3,000 Jordan JD 1.25 Kenya KSH 150 Kuwait KD 0.50 Latvia US$ 2 Lebanon LL 3000 Luxembourg LF 55 Madeira E 270 Malta ML 0.43 Morocco D 25 Netherlands G 4.00 Norway NK 16 Oman OR 1.00 Pakistan R 80 Poland Z 6.20 Portugal E 240 Qatar QR 8.50 Russia US$ 2.75 Saudi Arabia R 10 Slovakia SK 65 Slovenia SLT 290 Spain P 250 Sweden SK 17 Switzerland SF 3.20 Thailand B 80 Turkey TL 120,000 Ukraine US$ 3.50 USA US$ 2.75

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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46,996

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Winning against the odds

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Marilyn Monroe blackmailing the Kennedys?

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Defence of the realm

Tony Adams back at the sharp end

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Blueprint for new Tories

War on sleaze tops reforms

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

A SLEAZE-busting unit is to be established by the Conservatives as part of a package of far-reaching reforms to be unveiled at next week's party conference.

The unit is intended to avoid the kind of stand-off between party headquarters and the constituency party in the Neil Hamilton affair that crippled the Tories' general election campaign.

Membership, organisation and philosophy are all to be overhauled in an attempt to create a modern, less stuffy and less hierarchical party capable of mounting a serious challenge to Tony Blair at the next general election.

The changes, described by a Tory source as the most fundamental to be undertaken by the party this century, will dominate a week of inquest, blood-letting and soul-searching at the Blackpool conference next week.

The leader, William Hague, will encourage open debate on the plans and Conservative strategists hope this will deflect from what they see as the trivialisation of his leadership, such as press interest in his sleeping arrangements with his fiancee at the conference.

The changes will be published in the form of a consultation document on Tuesday at the opening of the conference.

The driving force behind the reform is Archie Norman, the party vice-chairman as well as the successful chief executive of Asda, who spent the summer reviewing the debris of the party after the general election and taking evidence from hundreds of MPs, activists and what remains of the Tory high command.

As well as the sleaze unit, the consultation paper will propose:

☐ Scrapping the Young Conservatives as a separate entity and integrating members into a new organisation aimed at attracting young people into the party.

☐ Shedding the party's image of being run by ex-colonels and necklace-clad ladies by abolishing the present cumbersome structure, which is run by committees seen as undemocratic and stuffy. The present overlapping professional and voluntary wings, which create confusion, will be replaced by a more cohesive unit.

☐ Creating a more democratic structure, with constituency parties more involved, and making the whole party more in tune with the times, such as by doing away with the sense of deference that still pervades the party.

☐ Wooing women and members of the ethnic communities and giving them top jobs. All-women short-lists have been ruled out but other ways of redressing the balance will be considered.

☐ Pushing for new members, with party sources openly admitting membership stands at only 300,000 rather than the 1 million previously claimed. The new leadership is confident of quickly raising membership to about 600,000. A central membership list, complete with a databank listing individual interests of every member, will be introduced for the first time.

☐ Exploring new issues to broaden appeal, creating space between the Conservatives and Labour. Animal rights or the environment are cited as examples of issues with wide appeal.

The sleaze unit will be "one step removed from the party" so that politicians will not have to make a judgment on allegations against MPs.

The body's decisions will be binding, thus stopping confrontations in constituencies — such as the Tatton case, in which the constituency party defied the will of the prime minister by clinging on to Mr Hamilton in the general election.

The source, speaking about the sleaze unit, said the Tory party had once been synonymous with integrity and wanted to reclaim that reputation.

The report will be published on the same day as the ballot results are announced endorsing Mr Hague's leadership and reforms. The Conservative source said: "The

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A party heading for the rocks, page 9

Bodyguard flies home

Bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, centre, the sole survivor of the crash that killed Princess Diana, leaves Paris yesterday for Britain PHOTOGRAPH: MICHEL LIPCHITZ

Lawyers called in over Diana book

Alison Daniels

ANDREW Morton's revised edition of his best selling biography of the Princess of Wales went on sale in London yesterday amid continuing legal uncertainty over the copyright of tape recordings made by Diana.

The Spencer family is seeking legal advice over "a number of issues" connected with publication of the book, said a spokeswoman for the princess's mother, Frances Shand Kydd, and sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, who are the executors of her will.

"The Spencer family are very distressed," said the spokeswoman. She did not rule out legal attempts to have the book withdrawn from the shelves.

However bookstores said they had not been contacted by Spencer family lawyers and Mr Morton's publisher, Michael O'Mara, said UK and American distribution was going ahead as planned.

Several thousand copies of the book went on sale in Dillons stores as well as Harrods' ahead of Monday's official publication date. The rest are due to be distributed over the weekend to major chains.

Mr Morton defended his decision to publish 100,000 copies of Diana, Her True Story — In Her Own Words, which includes a 18,000 word transcript of tapes made by the princess and a pledge that a donation has been made to a landmine charity by the author and publisher.

Mr Morton said he had acted extremely honourably, justifying his disclosure that the princess was the source of his book by saying she did not need protecting any more.

He told ITV he had supplied the tapes and they were his property and copyright. "She co-operated fully throughout this exercise. She spoke on tape. It's her voice. These tapes are my copyright. They are physically my property."

However legal experts disagreed. It was suggested that even if Mr Morton owned the copyright in the sound recordings the princess, or her executors, would own the copyright of the spoken word.

Mr Morton denied he had sold a transcript of taped statements to People magazine in the US but said he had sold it extracts from the book. He refused to say how much will be contributed to charity.

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£5m pay-off for 'Attila the Brum'

Golden handshake could embarrass bank with strikes over pay looming

Julia Finch

THE chief executive of Barclays' City banking arm is set to receive the biggest pay-off in British corporate history.

Bill Harrison, aged 48, could scoop more than £5 million. He resigned from Barclays after the bank announced its intention to sell half of BZW, its City investment banking division. Mr Harrison joined the company only 12 months ago.

The Birmingham-born banker, nicknamed "Attila the Brum" by colleagues because of the upheaval that followed his appointment, was lured to the bank from a rival City firm with a £1.5 million signing-on fee.

His basic salary was set at £300,000 a year but in just his first three months at Barclays he was paid a performance bonus of £1.25 million. He was awarded shares worth £180,000 and was also given executive share options worth a further £1 million.

He was paid some £2 million more than Barclays' overall chief executive, Martin Taylor, and his pay packet accounted for 47 per cent of the total remuneration paid to directors of the bank.

Bill Harrison, in line for biggest pay-off in British corporate history after resigning from Barclays

The huge golden handshake is likely to prove an embarrassment for Mr Taylor, as the bank is facing strikes over a new pay system which bank unions say could freeze pay for up to 25,000 of the bank's high street staff.

This would also freeze their pensions — a further embarrassment for Mr Taylor since Tony Blair appointed him to head the commission examining the future of the welfare state, including pensions.

Mr Taylor admitted yesterday that many of BZW's 3,500 lower paid administrative staff could face redundancy with the bank's sale.

Last night Iain MacLean, assistant general secretary of Unifi, the Barclays staff association union, said a large pay-off for Mr Harrison would anger many of the bank's staff.

"There will be absolute outrage if he walks away with further millions stuffed in his wallet. If he gets a huge pay-off it will be another lurid example of reward for failure."

Among the biggest pay-offs in the past have been £3.1 million handed to a former British Aerospace chief, John Cahill, and £3 million awarded to the previous boss of drugs giant Glaxo, Ernest Mario.

It is believed that Mr Harrison agreed to join BZW only on the understanding that he would be guaranteed more than £6 million over his first four years.

Yesterday Mr Taylor confirmed that Mr Harrison was in line for a substantial pay-off, but refused to estimate the size of the redundancy cheque the bank will have to sign. He said Mr Harrison had made "a huge contribution" to BZW and added: "He has been a joy to work with. I will miss him." Barclays, he said, had not yet started the pay-off negotiations.

Mr Harrison said his terms of employment were "a very complicated contract" and his departure represented "very complicated circumstances".

But he confirmed that he would be looking for another job. "It is a business I find it very difficult to extract myself from. I like it and it is my life".

Fears for jobs, page 11

Evans does battle with Radio 1 as Virgin gingers up breakfast show

Kamal Ahmed, Media Correspondent

CHRIS Evans, scourge of polite society and hero to millions who love his irreverant wit and general loutishness, yesterday announced that he is returning to breakfast radio.

In a deal thought to be worth close to £1 million, Evans's company, Ginger Productions, will take over the early morning slot for Virgin Radio, going head-to-head with his former employers at Radio 1.

The announcement marks the end of a remarkable courtship of Evans by Richard Branson, the head of Virgin. After Evans left Radio 1 in a blaze of publicity last year, Mr Branson took him on a highly publicised trip on Concorde to try to persuade him to join Virgin.

Although Evans turned him down, Branson has kept in touch with the man who once admitted that all he ever wanted to be was a fireman.

"Chris is delighted to be moving to Virgin," a spokesman for Evans said. "The show will be very much as Chris does all his shows, it will have the same pace and wit that people have become used to."

Evans's programme will start on October 13, the same day that Zoe Ball and Kevin Greening take over the Radio 1 breakfast show from Mark Radcliffe and Mark Riley.

Matthew Bannister, the controller of BBC radio, approached Evans recently in a failed attempt to persuade him to return to Radio 1 where his breakfast show brought in millions of new listeners. The station has been struggling with declining audiences ever since.

The present Virgin breakfast show presenters, Russell Williams and Jonothan Coleman, were told at the end of yesterday's programme that their services were no longer needed.

Both were said to be shocked by the move, although Virgin said they would be offered new slots.

Evans will initially do a 10-week run for Virgin. Managers at the station are awaiting the outcome of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into the station's takeover by Capital Radio before agreeing a final contract.

The MMC is expected to report next month on Capital's bid, which has been accepted by Virgin. Mr Branson will keep a substantial stake in the new company.

Evans will host the show from Monday to Thursday, leaving him time to present his Channel 4 programme, TFI Friday.

The Week, page 18

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The tarnished image of heavyweight boxing goes on trial as Lennox Lewis faces controversial low-puncher Andrew Golota. The Week 24

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Boy dies after finding vodka

John Arlidge

A 10-YEAR-OLD boy found staggering around the streets after he and his friends had discovered three bottles of vodka in bushes died yesterday.

Stephen Galloway-McGee, from Ferguslie Park, Paisley, had been declared brain dead on Thursday but was put on a life-support machine at the Southern general hospital, in Glasgow, while tests were carried out to discover how he died. His life-support machine was switched off yesterday. Stephen's mother, Margaret Galloway-McGee, aged 31, was too upset to talk about the death last night.

Stephen, who was baptised as he fought for his life, was returning home with friends from Ferguslie primary school on Monday when they are believed to have found three bottles of vodka in bushes.

Police found Stephen staggering around the streets and sent him home to sleep off the effects of the alcohol. But the next morning he fell unconscious, and was rushed to hospital.

The Rev Archie Speirs, minister at St Ninian's Parish Church, in Ferguslie Park, said last night: "The whole family are utterly shocked and devastated. The children and teachers at Stephen's school have been praying for his recovery. The whole community is in a state of shock."

Scientists are understood to have found traces of vodka in Stephen's bloodstream but tests indicated they were too small to cause death. Two bottles of vodka, which were recovered at the scene, have been sent for analysis. Officers are examining the possibility that Stephen may have consumed other substances.

A post mortem examination will be carried out next week, and a report will be sent to the Scottish prosecution service.

Commonwealth invitation to Sierra Leone's ousted president underlines commitment to democracy

Blair acts on human rights

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

IN A defiant gesture underlining Britain's commitment to human rights and democracy in Africa, Tony Blair has issued a personal invitation to the ousted president of Sierra Leone to attend this month's Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh.

Mr Blair, chairing the biennial meeting on October 24, will also be in the chair when the Queen makes an unprecedented speech to the opening session in the city's international conference centre.

In the past, the Queen, the Head of the Commonwealth, has always stayed deliberately behind the scenes, hosting a banquet for leaders and avoiding any public involvement — partly to avoid suggestions that she is trying to overemphasise the Britishness of the ex-colonial club.

Mr Blair's invitation to President Ahmed Kabbah as "a special guest" under Commonwealth rules is a deliberate attempt by Britain to sharpen the organisation's much-heralded respect for human rights and democracy.

Under the terms of the 1991 Harare Declaration committing Commonwealth members to an agenda of human rights and democracy — by which Nigeria was suspended at the last summit in Auckland for hanging Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other activists — Sierra Leone was suspended from "the councils of the Commonwealth" after the president was ousted in May's military coup.

Britain has refused to recognise the junta and continues to treat Mr Kabbah as the democratically elected head of state. Mr Blair's invitation allows him to attend as head of the Sierra Leone delegation.

"It can only do good to the Commonwealth and Britain," said one official at the organisation's London headquarters. "If the elected president is replaced by a gaggle of soldiers and we do nothing, no one will take us seriously."

Commonwealth supporters greeted the move. "It's a signal from the Government that they really are pursuing a human rights-oriented policy and underlines the fact that Britain doesn't like military coups any more," said one.

On Wednesday, Mr Kabbah addressed the United Nations general assembly and issued a "desperate appeal" to the international community to "save a nation".

The crisis in Sierra Leone has been a bitter disappointment for both the UN and the Organisation of African Unity, which worked for years to end conflict and establish representative government. Mr Kabbah was toppled after signing a peace accord with the rebels last November, nine months after he won elections that ended several years of army rule.

Few other surprises are expected in Edinburgh, with broad agreement that Nigeria will remain suspended rather than face expulsion. But there may be controversy over the Queen's role.

"Eyebrows have been raised at the prospect of her addressing the conference," one diplomat said last night. "In other Commonwealth countries which have monarchs of their own, like Malaysia, they would never do that. It could establish an unwelcome precedent."

The Queen's unusually high profile is being explained in Whitehall by the coincidence of this being the first Commonwealth summit in Britain for 20 years, her own 50th wedding anniversary and the 50th anniversary of Indian and Pakistani independence.

President Ahmed Kabbah: invited by Tony Blair

Schoolchildren gawk at 'Sue' the T. rex, to be auctioned today PHOTOGRAPH: STAN HONDA

$1m auction battle for T. rex bones

Mark Tran in New York

A REMARKABLY well-preserved specimen of a Tyrannosaurus rex goes on sale at Sotheby's in New York today in the latest twist of a tangled saga that has pitted commercial fossil dealers against academic palaeontologists.

Nicknamed Sue after Susan Hendrickson, who discovered it, this predator of the late Cretaceous period is only the 12th T. rex to be found and the first to be sold at auction — where it is expected to fetch at least $1 million (£625,000). Dug out of a cliff in South Dakota seven years ago, Sue was 41ft long and weighed seven tons in its prime, about 65 million years ago.

One of the largest land predators known to have existed, the T. rex has sparked immense interest in the run-up to today's auction.

Hundreds of schoolchildren have come to gawk at the impressive set of bones, which are 90 per cent complete with only one forearm and an ankle missing. A local radio station has raised $300,000 from listeners to make a bid.

Conjecture about the last moments of Sue's violent life has fed the public's fascination. Teeth marks across the 5ft-long skull indicate that she was attacked by another T. rex, which fed off the flesh on the left side of her rib cage before abandoning the carcase in a shallow steambed, where sediment preserved the bones.

In an introduction to Sotheby's catalogue, Dr Philip Currie, a curator of dinosaur fossils in Canada, wrote that "Sue is undoubtedly the most famous specimen of the species" and will "remain a focus for scientific, legal and ethical discussions long into the future. But perhaps most important, she is stunningly beautiful and will inspire new generations of dinosaur enthusiasts like myself."

Excitement over Sue has been accompanied by fierce legal battles over the remains and resentment among academics at commercial fossil hunters. Peter Larson, the largest commercial fossil dealer in the United States, who excavated Sue, was the focus of an investigation after allegations by palaeontologists that he had systematically pilfered fossils from government land and conspired to sell them. Mr Larson was cleared of such charges, but spent 18 months in jail for failing to declare travellers' cheques on trips abroad.

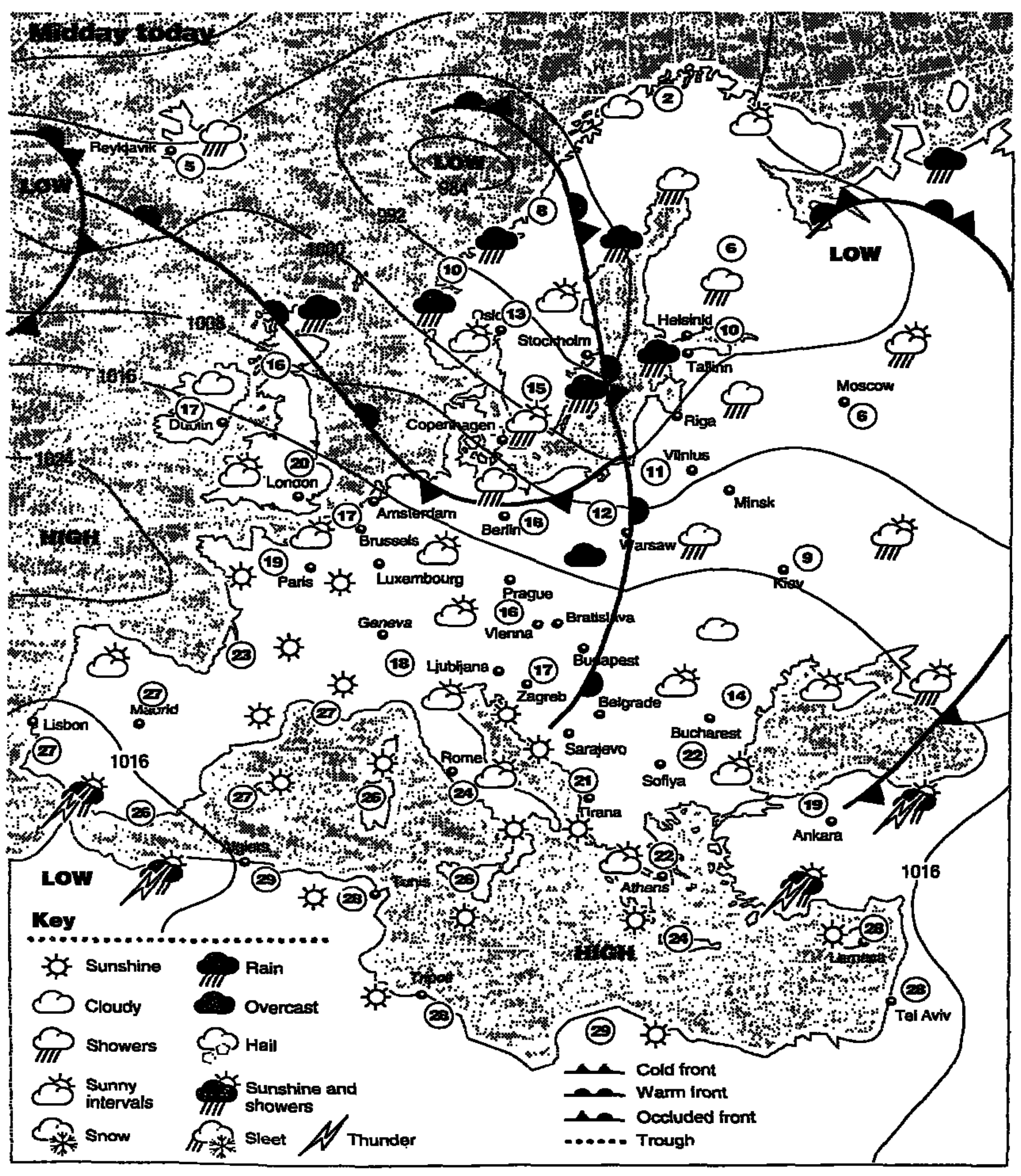
In May 1992, the FBI raided Mr Larson's Black Hills Institute in South Dakota, a state-of-the-art palaeontology laboratory, and confiscated Sue on the grounds that she had been improperly removed from federal land. Mr Larson maintained that the fossil had come from the private property of a Cheyenne River Sioux named Maurice Williams, who was paid $5,000.

A judge eventually decided that Mr Williams's land was private. However, it was held in trust for him by the government — an arrangement desiged to protect Native Americans from property speculators. Because Sue was ruled to be part of the land, the court decided that Mr Williams had no right to sell the fossil without government approval.

But in yet another twist, the government, in its role as guardian of Mr Williams's land, was obliged to promote his best interests — hence today's auction.

Mr Larson will be bidding with the financial backing of a construction magnate. He hopes to make Sue the centrepiece of a new fossil museum.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

Today

	max	min	weather
Algiers	29	19	S
Amsterdam	18	13	R
Athens	22	13	F
Berlin	16	11	C
Bonn	17	11	R
Brussels	17	12	C
Copenhagen	14	12	R
Crete	24	17	F
Geneva	19	7	S
Larnaca	28	18	S
London	20	11	C
Madrid	27	16	S
Milan	21	13	F
Nice	23	17	S
Oslo	13	4	F
Paris	19	9	F
Rome	24	16	F
Stockholm	11	6	R
Tunis	28	20	S
Vienna	16	8	F

Tomorrow

	max	min	weather
Algiers	30	23	F
Amsterdam	17	12	C
Athens	21	13	F
Berlin	17	11	C
Bonn	19	10	C
Brussels	18	11	C
Copenhagen	14	10	Sh
Crete	22	14	F
Geneva	21	12	F
Larnaca	26	16	S
London	18	12	C
Madrid	24	17	F
Milan	21	15	C
Nice	22	17	F
Oslo	11	6	F
Paris	20	11	S
Rome	24	18	F
Stockholm	10	4	C
Tunis	29	21	S
Vienna	19	10	C

Monday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	29	22	S
Amsterdam	18	13	Sh
Athens	23	15	S
Berlin	17	11	F
Bonn	20	14	F
Brussels	19	14	F
Copenhagen	14	10	C
Crete	22	15	F
Geneva	22	14	C
Larnaca	27	16	S
London	20	12	C
Madrid	21	18	Sh
Milan	21	16	Sh
Nice	23	18	Dr
Oslo	11	8	Dr
Paris	21	13	C
Roma	27	19	F
Stockholm	12	8	C
Tunis	30	20	F
Vienna	20	9	S

Tuesday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	27	20	C
Amsterdam	19	12	Th
Athens	24	15	S
Berlin	20	12	F
Bonn	21	13	Sh
Brussels	19	13	Sh
Copenhagen	15	11	F
Crete	24	16	S
Geneva	20	13	Th
Larnaca	27	16	S
London	19	11	Dr
Madrid	20	13	Dr
Milan	19	16	Th
Nice	23	18	Th
Oslo	12	7	R
Paris	20	13	C
Rome	26	19	C
Stockholm	13	9	C
Tunis	31	19	F
Vienna	19	10	F

C, cloudy; Cl, clear; Dr, drizzle; F, fair; Fg, fog; H, hail; Hz, haze; R, rain; Sh, showers; Sl, sleet; Sn, snow; S, sunny; Th, thunder. * (previous day's readings)

Around the world

Lunchtime yesterday (previous day in Americas)

Ajaccio	F	26	79	Lisbon	S	27	81
Amsterdam	C	15	59	London	C	16	61
Anchorage	F	7	45	Los Angeles	C	23	73
Athens	C	26	79	Luxembourg	C	13	55
Atlanta	S	21	70	Madrid	F	28	82
B Aires	C	16	61	Majorca	S	27	81
Barbados	C	31	88	Malaga	S	27	81
Barcelona	S	28	82	Malta	C	26	79
Belgrade	C	15	59	Mecca	S	41	106
Berlin	Sh	12	54	Melbourne	Sh	9	48
Bermuda	Sh	28	82	Mexico City	n/a		
Biarritz	F	22	72	Miami	F	31	88
Bombay	F	33	91	Milan	S	28	82
Bordeaux	S	24	75	Montreal	F	10	50
Boston	F	13	56	Moscow	M	5	41
Brisbane	F	26	79	Munich	n/a		
Brussels	F	16	61	Nairobi	F	26	79
Budapest	F	14	57	Naples	F	26	79
Cairo	S	30	86	New Delhi	F	28	82
Calcutta	C	31	88	New Orleans	S	27	81
Calgary	C	16	61	New York	C	13	55
Cape Town	C	27	81	Nice	S	26	79
Casablanca	F	24	75	Oslo	F	12	54
Chicago	C	22	72	Paris	S	18	64
Christchurch	n/a			Perth	S	21	70
Corfu	F	25	77	Prague	C	11	52
Dakar	S	31	88	Reykjavik	Sh	4	39
Dallas	S	31	88	Rhodes	F	24	75
Darwin	S	34	93	Rio de Jan.	F	31	88
Dhaka	S	31	88	Rome	F	26	79
Dublin	C	16	61	Sarajevo	F	13	55
Florence	C	25	77	Singapore	F	31	88
Frankfurt	F	14	57	Stockholm	F	11	52
Geneva	S	19	66	Strasbourg	S	17	63
Gibraltar	S	26	79	Sydney	C	26	79
Hamburg	C	13	55	Tel Aviv	S	28	82
Helsinki	C	7	45	Tenerife	F	26	79
Hong Kong	C	28	82	Tokyo	C	22	72
Honolulu	F	32	90	Toronto	Sh	9	48
Innsbruck	C	13	55	Tunis	S	30	86
Istanbul	C	23	73	Valencia	S	29	84
Jersey	S	19	66	Vancouver	F	16	61
Jerusalem	F	25	77	Venice	M	22	72
Jo'burg	F	26	79	Vienna	F	12	54
Karachi	S	32	90	Warsaw	F	10	50
Kiev	C	8	46	Washington	F	16	61
Kingston	F	31	88	Zurich	F	15	59
Larnaca	F	27	81				
Lima	G	22	72				

European weather outlook

Scandinavia:
Most of Scandinavia will begin the day cloudy with rain, but this will quickly move eastwards across the region with drier and brighter weather spreading from the west. However, the western coast of Norway will remain cloudy with periods of rain throughout the day. Highs from a cold 2-5C in the north to 11-14C in southern areas.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland:
The Low Countries and northern parts of Germany will be rather cloudy with intermittent rain. However, Austria, Switzerland and southern Germany will be dry with a mixture of variable cloud and sunny spells. Highs 16-19C.

France:
France will again have a warm and mainly sunny day. However, many places will start foggy and this may take a little time to clear during the morning. Highs from 18-20C in the north to 24-27C along the Mediterranean coast.

Spain and Portugal:
Southern parts of Spain and Portugal will have a few thundery showers. However, the rest of the Iberian peninsula will be very warm and mainly sunny. Highs 23C along the Biscay coast, 24-27C in most other places, but up to 29C in southern Spain.

Italy:
Italy will have a fine day with a mainly sunny morning followed by a mix of sunny spells and cloud in the afternoon. Highs from 18C in the Po valley, but up to 27C in Sicily.

Greece:
It will be fine and dry with pleasant sunny spells. Max temps around 19-22C.

Television and radio — Saturday

BBC 1

8.05am Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars. 8.25 News and Weather. 8.30 Saturday Aardvark. 8.40 Dennis the Menace. 9.05 Albert the Fifth Musketeer. 9.30 The New Adventures of Superman. 10.15 Live and Kicking. 1.12 Weather. 1.15 Grandstand. 6.20 News and Weather. 6.30 Regional News and Sport. 6.35 FILM: Short Circuit. 8.10 Confessions. 8.50 The National Lottery Live. 9.10 Casualty. 9.59 National Lottery Update. 10.00 The Fix. 11.30 News and Sport. 11.50 Match of the Day. 1.05 Clive Anderson All Talk. 1.45 Top of the Pops. 2.15 FILM: Driving Academy. 3.50 Weather. 3.55 Close.

BBC 2

8.20am FILM: Miracles for Sale. 9.25 FILM: Slightly Dangerous. 11.00 Q Asia. 11.30 Network East. 12.30 50 Years On: Independence. 12.55 Film '97 with Barry Norman. 1.25 FILM: I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang. 2.55 FILM: Gypsy. 5.15 The Saint. 6.05 TOTP 2. 6.50 Postcards from the Country. 7.30 News and Sport. 7.45 Correspondent. 8.30 The Works. 9.00 What the Papers Say. 9.10 Decisive Moments. 10.00 Funny Women. 10.30 Beryl Reid Says Good Evening. 11.00 The Great Hunger: The Life and Songs of Shane McGowan. 12.00 Clive Barker's A-Z of Horror. 12.55 FILM: Psycho. 2.40 Later with Jools Holland. 3.40 Weather. 3.45 Close.

BBC Prime

● Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.25 World Weather. 7.30 Noddy. 7.40 Jonny Briggs. 7.55 Badger and Badger. 8.20 Activ8. 8.35 Just William. 9.05 Blue Peter. 9.30 Grange Hill Omnibus. 10.05 Dr Who: Revenge of the Cybermen. 10.30 Style Challenge. 10.55 Ready, Steady, Cook. 11.25 World Weather. 11.30 EastEnders. 12.50 Style Challenge. 1.15 Ready, Steady Cook. 1.45 Kilroy. 2.30 Wildlife. 3.00 Love Hurts. 3.50 World Weather. 4.00 Mortimer and Arabel. 4.10 Kevin and Co. 4.35 Blue Peter. 5.00 Grange Hill Omnibus. 5.35 Top of the Pops. 6.05 Dr Who: Revenge of the Cybermen. 6.30 Tales from the Riverbank. 7.00 Oh Doctor Beeching! 7.30 Are You Being Served? 8.00 Hetty Wainthropp Investigates. 9.00 Thicker Than Water. 9.50 World Weather. 10.00 Murder Most Horrid II. 10.30 Ruby's Health Quest. 11.00 Shooting Stars. 11.30 TOTP2. 12.20 Later with Jools Holland. 1.30 World Weather. 5.00 Rocky Shores: Life on the Edge.

BBC World

● Eutelsat

7.00am News. 7.30 Panorama. 8.00 News. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 News. 9.30 Correspondent. 10.00 News. 10.30 Tomorrow's World. 11.00 News. 11.05 Branded. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Travel Show. 1.00 News. 1.30 This Week. 2.00 News. 2.05 Horizon. 3.00 News. 3.05 Reputations. 4.00 News. 4.30 Airport. 5.00 News. 5.05 Branded. 6.00 News. 6.30 Floyd on France. 7.00 News. 7.30 This Week. 8.00 News. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 News. 9.05 Horizon. 10.00 News. 10.30 Top Gear Special. 11.00 News. 11.30 The Money Programme. 12.00 Newsdesk and Weather. 12.30 This Week. 1.00 News. 1.05 Reputations. 2.00 News. 2.30 The Travel Show. 3.00 News. 3.05 Branded. 4.00 News. 4.30 Correspondent. 5.00 News. 5.30 Hard Talk. 6.00 News. 6.30 This Week.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 MHz; 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am News Briefing. 7.10 Farming Today. 7.50 Prayer for the Day. 7.55 Weather. 8.00 Today. 9.58 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.05 Sport on 4. 10.30 Breakaway. 11.00 News; Loose Ends. 12.00 News; Agenda. 12.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 1.00 Money Box. 1.25 News Quiz. 1.55 Weather. 2.00 News. 2.10 Any Questions? 2.55 Shipping Forecast. 3.00 News; Any Answers? (0171) 580 4444. 3.30 Saturday Playhouse: Shadowlands. 5.00 That's History. 5.30 Science Now. 6.00 Fils on 4. 6.40 Letter From South America (New Series). 6.50 Shipping Forecast. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Six O'Clock News. 7.25 Week Ending. 7.50 Offspring (New series). 8.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. 8.50 On These Days. 9.50 Saturday Night Theatre: My Uncle Freddie. 10.35 Classics with Kay. 10.50 Ten to Ten. 11.00 News. 11.15 Saturday Night Theatre: The Man in the Elephant Mask. 12.00 Tickle the Public and Make Them Grin. 12.30 Inspiration. 1.00 News. 1.30 Late Story: Bald Patch. 1.45 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service.

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on MW 648 kHz (463m) and in Western Europe on LW 198 kHz (1515m)

7.00am Newsday. 7.30 Science in Action. 8.00 World News. 8.15 The World Today. 8.30 Meridian Feature. 9.00 News. 9.15 From the Wealdes. 9.30 Brain of Britain. 10.00 News. 10.10 Pause for Thought. 10.15 On Your Behalf. 10.30 Andy Kershaw's World of Music. 11.00 News. 11.05 World Business Review. 11.15 The Works. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Dreams of Leaving: The Story of Human Migration. 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 People and Politics. 2.00 News; News in German (648 only). 2.05 World Business Review. 2.15 A Jolly Good Show. 2.45 Short Story. 3.00 Newshour. 4.00 News. 4.05 Sportsworld. 5.00 News. 5.05 Sportsworld. 5.30 (648 only) News in German. 6.00 News. 6.35 Sportsworld. 7.00 News. 7.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 7.45 Sports Round-Up. 8.00 Newsdesk. 8.30 Science in Action. 9.00 News. 9.01 Pet Sematary. 9.30 Chill Out. 10.00 Newshour. 11.00 News. 11.05 World Business Review. 11.15 Britain Today. 11.30 Meridian Live. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Play of the Week: Looking for Mr Big. 1.30 Andy Kershaw's World of Music. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Letter from America. 2.45 Britain Today. 3.00 Newsdesk. 3.30 On Your Behalf. 3.45 Sports Round-Up. 4.00 Newsday. 4.30 Music Review. 5.00 News. 5.05 World Business Review. 5.15 Sports Round-Up. 5.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 6.00 Newsdesk. 6.30 Global Business.

The Movie Channel

● Astra

7.00 In Old Kentucky. 9.00 Inhumanoids: The Movie. 11.00 Andre. 1.00 The Gay Divorcee. 3.00 Chad Hanna. 5.00 Holiday on the Buses. 7.00 Andre. 9.00 Family of Cops. 11.00 The Scarlet Letter. 1.35 Emmanuelle. 2.50 The Zone. 4.30 The Making of a Hollywood Madam: The Heidi Fleiss Story. 6.05 Off on a Comet.

Sky Movies

● Astra

7.00 The Bellboy. 8.30 Overboard. 10.30 Shadow Makers. 12.30 Jumanji. 2.30 The Bellboy. 4.30 The Stalking Moon. 6.30 The Land Before Time II: The Great Valley Adventure. 8.00 Jumanji. 10.00 Tommy Boy. 12.00 Mad Dogs and Englishmen. 1.40 The Unholy. 3.25 The Vagrant. 5.00 Circumstances Unknown.

Sky Movies Gold

● Astra

12.00 The Train Robbers. 1.35 We're No Angels. 3.25 Kind Hearts and Coronets. 5.10 The House on Carroll Street. 7.00 The Italian Job. 9.00 We're No Angels. 11.00 The Untouchables. 1.05 The Name of the Rose. 3.10 Midnight Run. 5.15 Close.

Sky Sports

● Astra

7.00 Windsurfing: World Tour. 7.30 Powerboat: Formula One. 8.00 Sports Centre. 9.00 Aerobics Oz Style. 9.30 Racing News. 10.00 Hold the Back Page. 11.00 Super League. 2.00 Sports Saturday. 6.30 Football: Bobby Charlton's Soccer Scrapbook. 8.00 Rugby League: Auckland v Bradford. 10.00 Boxing: Lennox Lewis v Andrew Golota - Live. 6.30 V-Max. 7.00 Close.

Eurosport

● Astra/Eutelsat

7.15 Motorcycling: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying - Live. 8.15 Mountain Biking. 9.15 Motorcycling: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying. 11.00 Athletics. 12.00 Motorcycling: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying. 1.30 Motorsport: STW Cup - Live. 2.30 Tennis: Swiss Indoor Championship - Live. 6.00 Motorsport: STW Cup. 6.30 Motorsport: 4x4 Off Road. 7.00 Truck Racing: Europa Truck Trial. 8.00 Strongman: European Championship. 9.00 Bodybuilding. 10.00 Boxing: Super Night Fights. 11.00 Motorcycling. 12.00 Motorsport: STW Cup. 12.30 Tractor Pulling: European Cup. 1.30 Motorsport: 4x4 Off Road. 2.00 Motorsport: Bathurst 1000 - Live. 4.00 Close. 6.00 Motorcycling: World Championships.

Sky One

● Astra

8.00 My Little Pony. 8.30 Street Sharks. 9.00 Press Your Luck. 9.30 Love Connection. 10.00 Quantum Leap. 11.00 Kung Fu. 12.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles. 1.00 WWF Wrestling: Live Wire. 2.00 WWF Wrestling: Shot Gun Challenge. 3.00 Star Trek. 4.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. 5.00 Earth II. 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 7.00 Adventures of Sinbad. 8.00 Tarzan: The Epic Adventure. 9.00 Renegade. 10.00 Cops I. 10.30 Cops II. 11.00 Selina. 12.00 New York Undercover. 1.00 The Movie Show. 1.30 L.A.P.D. 2.00 Dream On. 2.30 Revelations. 3.00 Long Play.

National Geographic

● Astra

8.00 Explorer. 9.00 Treasures of San Diego. 10.00 African Wildlife. 11.00 The Fox and the Shark. 12.00 They Never Set Foot on the Moon. 1.00 Explorer.

UK Gold

● Astra

8.00 The Sullivans. 10.05 One by One. 11.05 Neighbours. 1.05 Pop Profile. 1.10 EastEnders. 3.55 It's a Knockout Championship. 5.20 The A-Team. 6.15 The A-Team. 7.15 Bullseye. 7.45 Russ Abbot. 8.10 Rising Damp. 8.40 To the Manor Born. 9.20 On the Up. 10.00 The Paradise Club. 11.05 Casualty. 12.10 Alas Smith and Jones. 12.45 Sports Anorak of the Year. 1.20 Twins of Evil. 2.45 Rowland Rivron Bites the Bullet. 3.20 Shopping at Night.

NBC Superchannel

● Astra/Eutelsat

7.00 MSNBC News. 8.00 The McLaughlin Group. 8.30 Europa Journal. 9.00 Cyberschool. 11.00 Super Shop. 12.00 Super Sports. 1.00 Euro PGA Golf. 2.00 Super Sports. 3.00 Tennis: Davis Cup. 4.00 Europe a La Carte. 4.30 Travel Xpress. 5.00 The Best of The Ticket. 5.30 VIP. 6.00 The Site. 7.00 National Geographic Television. 8.00 National Geographic Television. 9.00 TECX. 10.00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. 11.00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien. 12.00 Talkin' Jazz. 12.30 The Ticket. 1.00 Major League Baseball. 4.30 Music Legends. 5.00 Executive Lifestyles. 5.30 The Ticket. 6.00 Travel Xpress. 6.30 Inspiration. 6.30 Inspiration.

Discovery

● Astra/Intelsat

5.00 Saturday Stack. 9.00 Discovery News. 9.30 Ultra Science. 10.00 The Falklands War. 11.00 Weapons of War. 12.00 Mystery of the Machu Picchu. 1.00 Medical Detectives. 1.30 Medical Detectives. 2.00 Classic Wheels. 3.00 Close.

Television and radio — Sunday

BBC 1

8.40am Alias Smith and Jones. 9.30 Breakfast with Frost. 10.30 Cathedral. 10.45 First Light. 11.15 See Hear! 11.45 Snowy River: The McGregor Saga. 12.30 CountryFile. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 On the Record. 2.00 EastEnders. 3.25 FILM: Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle. 4.35 FILM: Somewhere in Time. 6.15 The Nation's Favourite Love Poem. 6.20 The Clothes Show. 6.43 The Nation's Favourite Love Poem. 6.45 News; Regional News and Weather. 7.10 Songs of Praise. 7.45 Last of the Summer Wine. 8.15 The Antiques Inspectors. 8.00 Full Circle with Michael Palin. 9.50 News and Weather. 10.05 The Lakes. 10.55 French and Saunders. 11.25 Omnibus. 12.20 FILM: The Rape of Dr Willis. 1.50 FILM: Longtime Companion. 3.25 Weather. 3.30 Close.

BBC 2

8.30am Children's BBC: Teletubbies. 9.10 Spot. 9.15 Jackanory Gold. 9.30 Bitsa. 9.45 The Animals of Farthing Wood. 10.10 The Magical Adventures of Quasimodo. 10.35 Noah's Island. 11.00 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest. 11.30 Grange Hill. 11.50 Out of Tune. 12.20 Small World. 12.30 Top Score. 12.50 Singled Out. 1.15 The O Zone. 1.35 Sunday Grandstand. 6.20 The Natural World. 7.10 Secrets of Lost Empires. 8.00 Star Trek: Voyager. 8.45 Stephen Hawking's Universe. 9.35 Alan Clark's History of the Tory Party. 10.25 The Outer Limits. 11.10 FILM: Wild Rovers. 1.15 The Nazis: A Warning from History. 2.05 Weather. 2.10 Close. 3.00 Learning Zone.

BBC Prime

● Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.20 World Weather. 7.30 Simon and the Witch. 7.45 Gordon T Gopher. 7.55 Mortimer and Arabel. 8.10 The Lowdown. 8.35 Troublemakers. 9.00 Blue Peter. 9.25 Grange Hill Omnibus. 10.00 Top of the Pops. 10.25 Style Challenge. 10.50 Ready, Steady, Cook. 11.20 World Weather. 11.25 All Creatures Great and Small. 12.15 Yes, Minister. 12.45 Style Challenge. 1.15 Ready, Steady, Cook. 1.30 Authority in 18th-Century Europe. 1.45 Kilroy. 2.30 Wildlife. 3.00 All Creatures Great and Small. 3.50 Badger and Badger. 4.05 Activ8. 4.30 Blue Peter. 4.55 Grange Hill Omnibus. 5.30 TOTP2. 6.20 World Weather. 6.30 Driving School. 7.00 Lovejoy. 8.00 Ballykissangel. 9.00 Marilyn Monroe: Say Goodbye to the President. 10.30 To the Manor Born. 11.00 An Englishman Abroad. 12.00 Songs of Praise. 12.35 Mastermind. 1.05 Musical Prodigies.

BBC World

● Eutelsat

7.00am News. 7.30 India Business Report. 8.00 News. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 News. 9.30 World Focus: Window on Europe. 10.00 News. 10.30 World Living: Airport. 11.00 News. 11.05 Weekend World: Reputations. 12.00 News. 12.30 World Living: Floyd on France. 1.00 News. 1.30 Hard Talk. 2.00 News. 2.05 Weekend World: Branded. 3.00 News. 3.05 Breakfast with Frost. 4.00 News. 4.30 World Living: The Travel Show. 5.00 News. 5.05 Weekend World: Horizon. 6.00 News. 6.30 World Living: Top Gear Special. 7.00 News. 7.05 Weekend World: Reputations. 8.00 News. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 News. 9.05 Weekend World: Branded. 10.00 News. 10.30 World Living: Tomorrow's World. 11.00 Newsdesk, World Business Report and 24 Hours. 12.00 Newsdesk, World Business Report and 24 Hours. 1.00 News. 1.05 World Focus: Horizon. 2.00 News. 2.30 World Living: Top Gear Special. 3.00 World News, World Business Report, Asia Today and 24 Hours. 6.00 News. 6.30 World Focus: Correspondent.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 MHz; 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am News Briefing. 7.10 Something Understood. 7.55 Weather. 8.00 News. 8.10 Sunday Papers. 8.15 On Your Farm. 8.40 Sunday. 9.50 The Week's Good Cause. 9.55 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.10 Sunday Papers. 10.15 Letter from America. 10.30 Morning Service. 11.15 The Archers. 12.15 Mediumwave. 12.45 Books and Company. 1.15 Desert Island Discs. 2.00 The World This Weekend. 2.55 Shipping Forecast. 3.00 Gardeners' Question Time. 3.30 Classic Serial: The Lifted Veil. 4.30 Pick of the Week. 5.15 Analysis. 6.00 Magic Mountains. 6.30 Poetry Please! 6.50 Shipping Forecast. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Six O'Clock News. 7.15 Gerry's Bar (New Series). 7.30 In Business. 8.00 Children's BBC Radio 4. 8.20 Breakaway. 9.00 (FM) The Natural History Programme. 9.30 (FM) That's History. 10.00 (FM) The Return of Itchy Feet. 10.30 (FM) Action Reaction. 11.00 News. 11.15 All in the Mind. 11.45 Europe Now. 12.15 Something Understood. 1.00 News. 1.20 Bells on Sunday. 1.30 The Late Story. 1.49 Shipping. 2.00 As World Service.

BBC World Service

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7.00am Newsday. 7.30 Play of the Week: Looking for Mr Big. 8.30 A Jolly Good Show. 9.00 News. 9.15 Letter from America. 9.30 Jazzmatazz. 10.00 News. 10.10 Pause for Thought. 10.15 Short Story. 10.30 The Greenfield Collection. 11.00 News. 11.05 Write On. 11.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Global Business. 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Anything Goes. 2.00 News; News in German (648 only). 2.05 Write On. 2.15 In Praise of God. 3.00 Newshour. 4.00 News Summary. 4.01 International Question Time. 5.00 News. 5.05 Sports Round-Up. 5.15 Concert Hall. 5.30 (648 only) News in German. 6.00 Europe Today. 6.30 Shakespeare on Trial. 7.00 News. 7.01 Elvis Presley-The Legacy. 7.30 Weekend. 8.00 Newsdesk. 8.30 Play of the Week: Looking for Mr Big. 9.30 Anything Goes. 10.00 Newshour. 11.00 News. 11.05 Write On. 11.15 Britain Today. 11.30 Music Review. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Health Matters. 12.45 Sports Round-Up. 1.00 News. 1.05 Science View. 1.10 Revolution. 1.25 Pop Short. 1.30 In Praise of God. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Short Story. 2.45 Britain Today. 3.00 Newsdesk. 3.30 Pick of the World. 4.00 Newsday. 4.30 Meridian Feature. 5.00 News. 5.05 Write On. 5.15 Sports Round-Up. 5.30 Europe Today. 6.00 Newsdesk. 6.30 Europe Today.

The Movie Channel

● Astra

7.00 It Should Happen to You. 8.30 Three Ninjas Knuckle Up. 9.55 Richie Rich. 11.30 Far from Home: The Adventures of Yellow Dog. 1.00 In the Army Now. 3.00 Shall We Dance. 5.00 The Next Karate Kid. 7.00 Richie Rich. 9.00 In the Army Now. 11.00 Dream Man. 12.35 The Movie Show. 1.05 The Sexual Life of the Belgians. 2.30 Bye Bye, Love. 4.20 Falling for You. 5.55 Travels of Marco Polo.

Sky Movies

● Astra

7.00 The Borrowers. 8.30 Rough Cut. 10.30 Lionheart: The Children's Crusade. 12.30 The Borrowers. 2.00 David Copperfield. 4.00 Lionheart: The Children's Crusade. 6.00 Guarding Tess. 8.00 Cutthroat Island. 10.00 Waiting to Exhale. 12.15 One Tough Bastard. 1.55 Jack's Back. 3.35 Suture. 5.15 Guarding Tess.

Sky Sports

● Astra

7.00 Motorcycling: World Superbikes Championship - Live. 9.30 Powerboat and Jetski World. 10.00 Boxing: Lennox Lewis v Andrew Golota. 1.00 Rugby Union Update. 3.00 Samsung Esprit. 4.00 Football: Liverpool v Chelsea - Live. 7.30 Rugby League: London v Cronulla. 10.30 Golf: German Masters. 11.30 Motorcycling: World Superbikes Championship. 1.00 WWF Wrestling: In Your House - Live. 4.00 Rugby League: London v Cronulla. 6.00 Close.

Eurosport

● Astra/Eutelsat

7.00 Motorcycling: Australian Grand Prix - Live. 8.00 Motorsport: Bathurst 1000 - Live. 8.45 Motorcycling: Australian Grand Prix. 10.30 Motorsport: Bathurst 1000. 11.30 Motorsport: STW Cup. 12.00 Motorcycling: Australian Grand Prix. 3.00 Tennis: Swiss Indoor Championship - Live. 5.30 Cycling: World Cup. 6.00 Motorsport: NASCAR - UAW-GM Quality 500 - Live. 10.00 Motorsport: STW Cup. 11.00 Motorcycling. 12.00 Sailing. 12.30 Motorsport: Bathurst 1000. 1.30 Close.

Sky One

● Astra

7.00 Hour of Power. 8.00 Bump in the Night. 8.30 Street Sharks. 9.00 Press Your Luck. 9.30 Love Connection. 10.00 Quantum Leap. 11.00 Kung Fu. 12.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles. 1.00 WWF Wrestling: Superstars. 2.00 Miss Teen USA. 4.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. 6.00 Earth II. 6.00 Muppets Tonight! 6.30 Showbiz Weekly. 7.00 The Simpsons. 7.30 The Simpsons. 8.00 The Pretender. 9.00 The Cape. 10.00 The X-Files. 11.00 The Outer Limits. 12.00 Forever Knight. 1.00 Can't Hurry Love. 1.30 L.A.P.D. 2.00 Fifth Corner. 3.00 Long Play.

National Geographic

● Astra

8.00 Explorer. 8.00 Path of the Rain God: Maya Mountains. 9.00 Path of the Rain God: River Valley. 11.00 Caymanis. 12.00 Ghosts of Ruby. 1.00 Explorer.

UK Gold

● Astra

8.00 Pop Profile. 8.05 The Onedin Line. 9.00 The Duchess of Duke Street. 9.55 Worzel Gummidge Down Under. 10.30 Blake's Seven. 11.25 Dr Who and the Horns of Nimon. 1.30 The Eagle Has Landed. 4.00 The Bill Omnibus. 6.20 In Sickness and in Health. 7.00 The Two Ronnies. 8.00 Morecambe and Wise. 9.00 Only Fools and Horses. 9.40 Open All Hours. 10.20 Blackadder Goes Forth. 11.00 Between the Lines. 12.05 Red Dwarf. 1.25 The Day of the Triffids. 3.05 Shopping.

NBC Superchannel

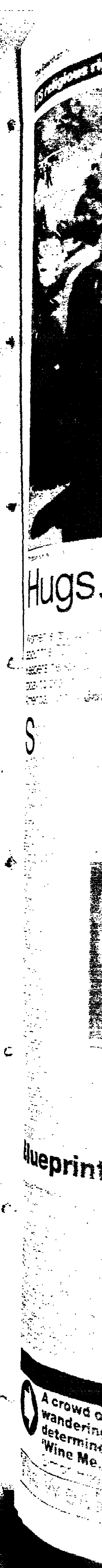
● Astra/Eutelsat

8.00 Hour of Power. 9.00 Time and Again. 9.30 Time and Again. 10.00 European Living. 11.00 Super Shop. 12.00 Super Sports. 12.30 Motor Racing. 1.00 Inside the PGA Tour. 1.30 Inside the SPGA Tour. 2.00 This Week in Baseball. 2.30 Major League Baseball Game of the Week. 4.00 Dateline NBC. 5.00 The McLaughlin Group. 5.30 Meet the Press. 6.30 VIP. 7.00 Europe à La Carte. 7.30 Travel Xpress. 8.00 Time and Again. 9.00 Tennis: Davis Cup. 10.00 The Best of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. 11.00 TECX. 12.00 Talkin' Jazz. 12.30 The Best of the Ticket. 1.00 The Best of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. 2.00 Internight. 3.00 VIP. 3.30 Europe à la Carte. 4.00 The Best of The Ticket. 4.30 Talkin' Jazz. 5.00 Travel Xpress. 5.30 The Best of The Ticket. 6.00 VIP. 6.30 The McLaughlin Group.

Discovery

● Astra/Intelsat

5.00 Shark Week: Great White! 7.00 Shark Week: Shark Doctors. 8.00 Shark Week: Deep Water, Deadly Game. 9.00 Shark Week: Jaws in the Med. 10.00 Shark Week: Ultimate Guide. 11.00 Shark Week: In the Shadow of the White Shark. 12.00 Shark Week: Teeth of Death. 1.00 Shark Week: Great White! 2.00 Shark Week: Great White! 3.00 Close.



هكذا من الاصل

صكنا من الاصل

US religious right again on the march

The seven promises

- ☐ Honour Christ
- ☐ Form relationships with other men
- ☐ Lead a pure ethical and sexual life
- ☐ Serve the family
- ☐ Support the Church
- ☐ Fight racial prejudice
- ☐ Love God and love your neighbour as yourself

Promise Keepers pray at the Mall in Washington yesterday during preparations for today's mass gathering of men who belong to the movement, founded by Bill McCartney (top right) PHOTOGRAPH: MARK WILSON

Hugs, tears and men only in promised land

Women's groups are uneasy about the 700,000 male Promise Keepers heading for Washington today to pray for a troubled America, writes **Joanna Coles**

SEVEN years ago, shortly after Bill McCartney discovered his only daughter Kristyn, aged 20, had become pregnant after a listless one-night stand with a notorious local playboy, he found himself pulling into a lay-by and praying.

"We sat there and prayed for three and half hours," says Dave Wardell, Mr McCartney's friend, who happened to be in the car with him at the time. Sensing his friend was in distress, Mr Wardell kept quiet and just prayed alongside. "I figured this guy is strong, he's stronger than bear's breath."

As Mr McCartney turned the key in the ignition and prepared to set off again, he told his friend what he'd been praying about: he'd had a vision of thousands, even millions of men across the United States crowding into football stadiums and praying together to end society's mess. Mr McCartney said he had dreamed of men promising to eschew adultery, to take responsibility and to lead their families out of America's social wilderness.

This afternoon, along the Mall in Washington — a city in which 68 per cent of children born this year will be born to unmarried women — Mr McCartney's vision will become reality as 700,000 men descend on the capital to beat their breasts. The Promise Keepers are coming to town.

By the time Mr McCartney's daughter had had her second child in 1993 — the result of another fling, with a local footballer — her father had already given up his day-job as a well-paid football coach at the University of Colorado and had got the religious ball rolling.

Across the US, men had been sheepishly embracing his idea of an emotional Masons for the Nineties. And as increasing numbers heard of the group and turned up at local sports clubs to hammer out a new social chapter, a new variation on the theme of America's religious right wing was born.

'A message that men have a God-given right to lead and women have a God-given duty to submit has no place in our society'

Patricia Ireland, president of NOW

The movement's main stress is on men returning to the family unit with zeal, and taking both the material and spiritual lead in the household. Encouraging blacks and whites alike — though excluding women and homosexuals — to come together and discuss their problems, the founder put together a package of seven promises which his members all pledged to keep.

Religious groups come and go in the US faster than pizza delivery boys, but the Promise Keepers have attracted attention, not least for the stress on men accepting blame for the state of the country's broken marriages.

The movement has also prompted comment for its emphasis on physical bonding, encouraging men to hug each other and weep publicly, gestures made more acceptable during the late Eighties by the Iron John Movement, which appealed to stressed-out executives. The Iron John members signed up for weekends in California where they banged drums and were urged to howl like wolves in dark forests to counterbalance the oppressive force of office politics.

The Keepers — exclusively male, with a membership of 2.6 million, a modest headquarters in Denver and a budget this year of $117 million (£73 million) — are viewed with both hope and suspicion. Hope, that they are sincere when they make their seven promises: "To build strong marriages", "practice sexual purity" and "reach beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity". Suspicion, that this is yet another male plot to seize control of the household and turn women back into cheerleaders.

"We think the Promise Keepers is just the hottest religious right marketing tool since tele-evangelism," says Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organisation for Women (NOW). "And with backing from Gerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and a who's who of the religious political extremists in this country, we don't think there's any doubt about their desire for political dominance."

In protest, NOW is planning its own march and will be asking the 700,000 marchers to sign an eighth promise: that women are "recognised and respected as equals".

Ms Ireland says: "A message that men have a God-given right to lead and women have a God-given duty to submit has no place in our society. None of us needs the preachers from the Promise Keepers telling us how to run our country and live our lives."

But many Americans love being told what to do. "I am not a doormat. I'm not easily walked on," says Holly Phillips, wife of a Promise Keeper. "These are personal choices and people out there are having a problem with our personal choices. But when the rubber meets the road and a final decision needs to be made, I have no problem yielding the floor to my husband."

Gary Bauer, head of the Washington-based Family Research Unit and an adviser to the group, said wives and girlfriends were thrilled their partners were signing up.

"Many of the men coming to Washington are doing so because their wives are begging them to do so. This is a fantastic development," he said, adding he was baffled by the controversy over the Promise Keepers. "Here's a group of men who believe, as I do, that Jesus Christ is the son of God and that God intends us to live in a certain way. And that among the things that are required of us is that we keep our promises to our wives, our children, our communities, our employers and our country. This seems to me to be the best thing since sliced bread."

Conscious of criticisms from women's groups, Mr McCartney refuses to align the group politically, although it has received funds from ultra-conservative religious groups. He himself is vehemently anti-abortion, and believes homosexuality is an insult to God. But, anxious to reassure his critics, he told Time magazine that a man's "leadership at home" actually translates into "servanthood" rather than power-crazed domination.

Another Keeper, Tony Evans, a senior pastor in Dallas, suggests men wondering how to wrestle the family leadership from their wives should approach it by sitting down with their partners and "saying something like this: 'Honey, I've made a terrible mistake. I've given you my role. I gave up leading this family and I forced you to take my place. Now, I must reclaim that role. There can be no compromise here. If you are going to lead, you must lead'."

Although membership of the Promise Keepers has slowed down, with a reported drop in those turning up for meetings, today's gathering is a test of the movement's strength and lasting significance. Meanwhile, Ms Ireland will be there demanding they sign her petition. She is not hopeful.

Blueprint for the new Tories

continued from page 1

poll is low, hardly surprising given the state of the membership list, but is it enough to be credible."

Working with Mr Norman in the review team were leading figures such as the Conservative Party chairman, Lord Parkinson, and the chairman of the 1922 committee, Sir Archie Hamilton.

Opinion polls were commissioned and extensive visits to constituencies made by all members of the team. The team was appalled at the state of the party, finding morale and organisation throughout the country much worse than had been anticipated, with Tory activists non-existent in huge swathes of Britain.

The report will go out for consultation, to be completed by February — and the reforms, as amended after consultation and party discussions, will be implemented as a matter of urgency as soon as possible afterwards.

The scale of Mr Hague's task is further underlined today by a warning that unless the Tories move back towards the centre ground and "face the future with confidence instead of with a sneer and a snarl" they may not have enough money to pay their deposits at the next general election.

Writing in the Guardian, the former cabinet minister and party grandee Lord Gilmour urges policy switches away from Euro-scepticism, where the Tories have been "hobbled by ideology and self-indulgence", and the abandonment of its low income tax stance.

Rigidity over constitutional reform should also be dropped.

Lord Gilmour argues that Mr Hague's position in seeking to rebuild his party is far worse than Winston Churchill's after Labour's 1945 landslide because the wartime ex-premier remained hugely respected.

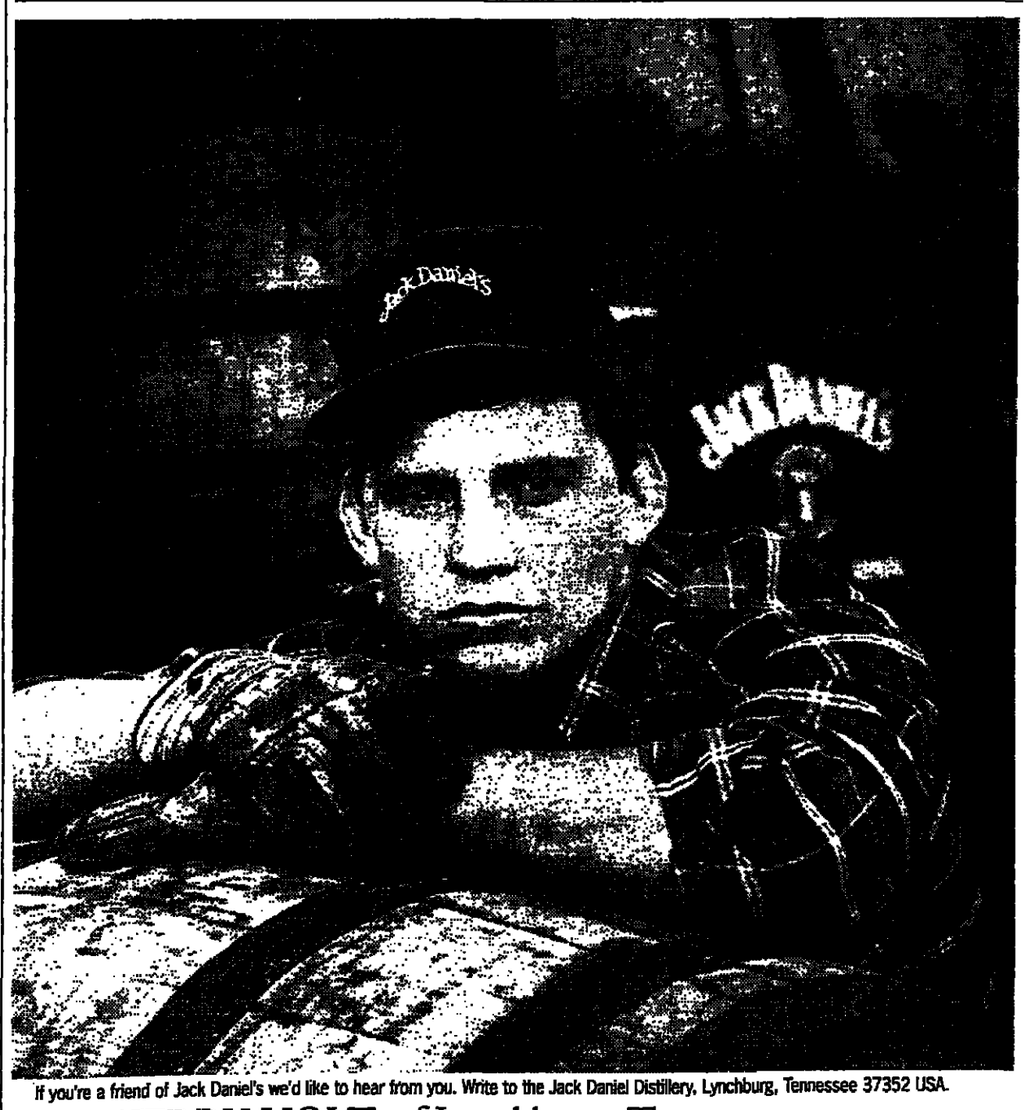
As senior backbenchers were given their first glimpse of the plans for a root and branch reform of the party structure, a prominent Euro MP, Graham Mather, said the party was "divided into three armed camps" — the party at Westminster, the leader's office and the constituencies.

The three parts were "eyeing each other warily" with the MPs determined to hold on to their power by retaining the decisive say in electing the leader, while the party activists blamed the MPs for the scale of the general election defeat and were determined to take more power for themselves.

A crowd of elderly, blue-rinsed ladies was seen wandering down the front in Brighton, all looking determined and all wearing T-shirts marked 'Wine Me, Dine Me, 69 Me.'

Simon Hoggart's week

The Week page 16



If you're a friend of Jack Daniel's we'd like to hear from you. Write to the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee 37352 USA.

MR. TERRY HOLT, of Lynchburg, Tennessee, starts every morning with a barrel of Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey.

Most days, Terry is up before the sun. Then, in the cool of the Tennessee dawn, he'll roll dozens of newly-filled barrels into warehouses set deep in the hills. (Our whiskey will sleep here until it's sippin' smooth.) What accounts for the rareness you find in Jack Daniel's? Partly, this old-time aging process. And partly, early risers like Terry Holt.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

End of the line for death penalty

Owen Bowcott and Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE death penalty — preserved in the statute book in the United Kingdom for treason, piracy and mutiny — may finally be consigned to history.

But Tony Blair's determination to abolish capital punishment — signalled at the Labour Party conference as a humanitarian gesture — yesterday became entangled in a diplomatic row over European procedures.

British sources in Strasbourg, where the Council of Europe summit meets next weekend, insisted that the Prime Minister will not sign up to Protocol 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights, which would outlaw it.

Diplomats were hurrying instead to find a form of words that Downing Street and the Home Office can agree to, acknowledging ministers' opposition to executions while making clear that the issue is one which Parliament — not the government of the day — must be free to decide.

The constitutional distinction is regarded as a sensitive issue. The Government has given a manifesto commitment to sign up to the convention — expected to be met once Parliament resumes this autumn — but that may not mean it will agree to all the attached protocols.

Capital punishment for murder was abolished in 1965, but Britain retains the mandatory death penalty for treason and piracy under civilian law and for five offences under military law, including mutiny, assisting the enemy, and obstructing operations.

Among the offences of treason, which date back to 1351, are murder of the monarch; levying war against the monarch; and killing the Lord Chancellor or the monarch's judges.

The issue could embarrass the Government when leaders of the 40-nation council meet. The summit is due to denounce the death penalty as a violation of human rights and demand its abolition throughout Europe.

Diplomats acknowledged that it would be difficult for Britain, as one of the original founders in 1949 of the Council of Europe — which has no connection with the European Union — to argue that other countries like Russia should not retain the death penalty when it theoretically does so itself.

In fact those member states of the council which still have the penalty have agreed to an informal moratorium against its use. The argument becomes even more difficult while Britain insists Parliament must decide — while telling the Russian government it should not permit executions when Moscow's parliament, the Duma, would certainly sanction them.

The meeting in Strasbourg is expected to be attended by heads of government from all the member states. The council has nearly doubled its membership in the last 10 years, following the collapse of Communism.

Leaders, including Tony Blair and Boris Yeltsin, are expected to sign up to reforms designed to improve protection for human rights.

Republican remanded for killing two police officers walks free as key witness proves unreliable

RUC murder case dropped

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

COLIN DUFFY, accused of murdering two policemen in Northern Ireland four months ago, walked from prison yesterday after prosecutors dropped the charges, ruling that key witness testimony was unreliable.

Mr Duffy, aged 29, said he would be suing the Royal Ulster Constabulary for compensation after being held on remand for the shootings of the two officers in Lurgan, County Armagh, in June. He said he was being victimised because he was a republican.

His solicitor, Rosemary Nelson, is planning to take his case to the European Court of Human Rights. She said: "This was a one-witness case, and the credibility of that witness was unsustainable from the outset."

After Mr Duffy was freed, his supporters drove in a 12-car cavalcade around Lurgan, with tricolours flying and horns blaring. They passed the spot where the two policemen died. The RUC blocked their route into the town's Protestant district.

Barry McIlduff, Sinn Fein councillor, said the case proved that the RUC should be disbanded. The issue would be raised at the all-party talks on Northern Ireland's future, which begin in earnest on Tuesday.

The RUC has vehemently rejected accusations of wrongdoing, and said its investigation into the double murder would continue.

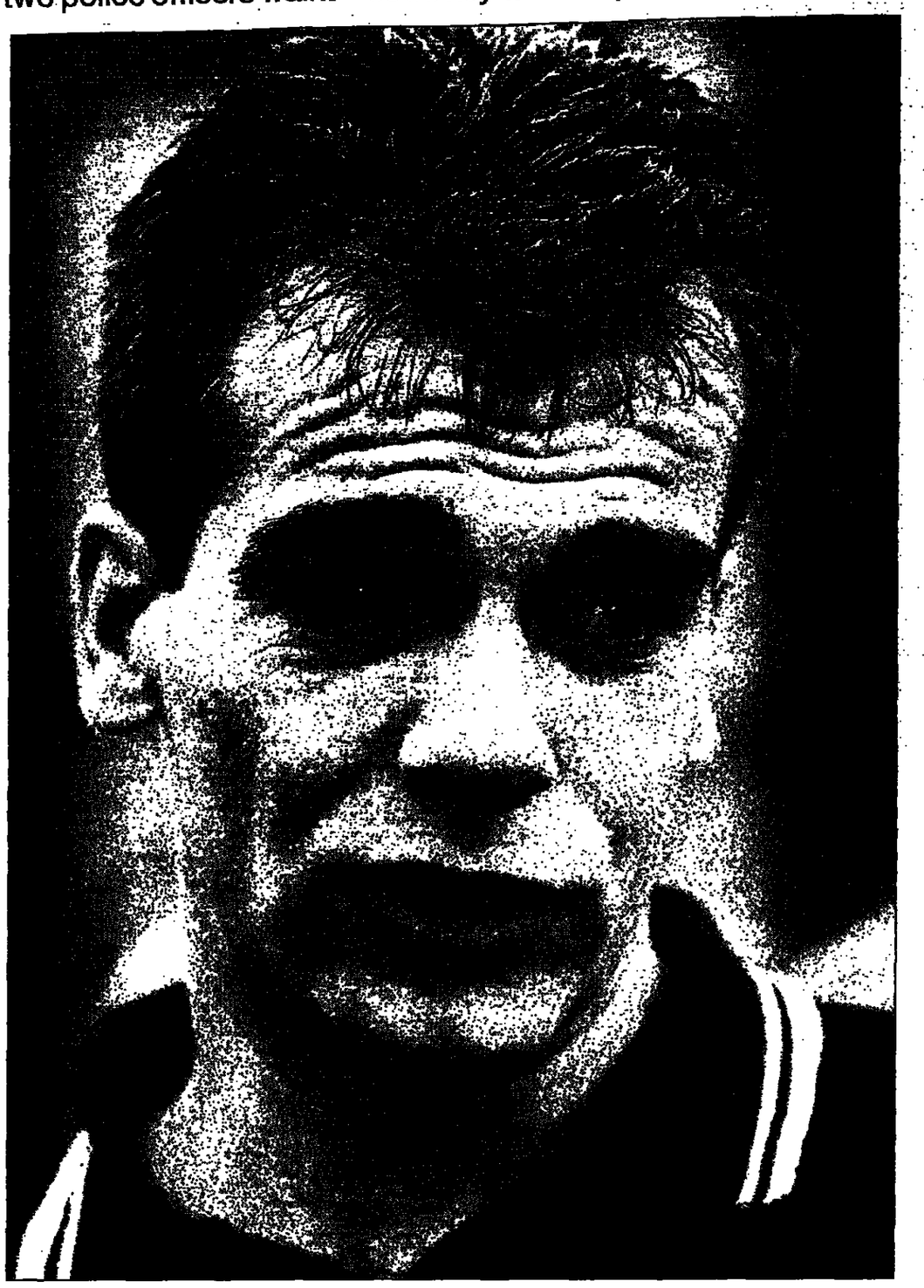
This is the second time that a prosecution case against Mr Duffy has collapsed. He was freed on appeal in September last year after serving three years of a life sentence for the murder of retired Ulster Defence Regiment soldier John Lyness in June 1993. A key witness against him later turned out to be a Ulster Volunteer Force gun-runner.

Mr Duffy said the RUC was pursuing a vendetta against him. He was arrested a week after Constable John Graham and Reserve Constable David Johnson were gunned down near the RUC station. The IRA claimed responsibility.

The crucial witness, however, was yesterday ruled unreliable because of inconsistencies in her story. According to alibi statements, at the time of the attack Mr Duffy, a labourer, was on the Kilwilkie estate where he lives. In a hearing lasting less than a minute, Lisburn magistrates heard the DPP was dropping the case.

Mr Duffy said: "Once again I was arrested and put in jail for something I didn't do. It's an indictment of the system, from the RUC to the courts. Until it changes, there is no justice in this part of the country."

In March 1990, Mr Duffy had escaped a Loyalist hit squad after winning bail on a charge of possessing 10 bullets. He and Tony McCaughey, another of the accused, had survived the UVF attack. But Sean Marshall, also accused, had been shot dead. The charges against Mr Duffy and Mr McCaughey, were later dropped. Mr Duffy then spent 18 months on remand charged with collecting information useful to terrorists. He was acquitted in March 1992.



Colin Duffy, who was freed from jail yesterday, believes the RUC has a vendetta against him PHOTOGRAPH: CRISPIN RODWELL

Commission weeds out ancient acts

AN ACT dating from the reign of Elizabeth I, which prevents venal clergymen profiting by subletting their grace and favour parsonages, may shortly be abolished.

If the Ecclesiastical Leases Act is axed by Parliament the 16th century legislation will join a growing pile of obsolete legislation weeded out of the statute book by the Law Commission.

The penalty of death for treason, mutiny and piracy is by no means the only legal sanction now deemed outdated but technically still enforceable.

The Law commission is also expected next year to recommend repeal of the 1797 Mutiny Act, passed shortly after the Royal Navy was briefly paralysed by seamen's revolts at Spithead and The Nore.

Other archaic legal oddities include:

☐ Prerogativa Regis, believed to be a statute of Edward II, commanding that "the King shall have throughout the realm, whales and great sturgeons taken in the sea". Attempts to repeal it in 1970 were defeated in the Lords.

☐ Coming Armed to Parliament, a statute of 1313, which forbids MPs to wear armour when attending the House.

☐ House of Commons (Clergy Disqualification) Act 1801, prevents Anglican and Catholic ministers sitting as MPs. Defiant clerics face fines of £500 a day for appearing in the chamber.

☐ Easter Act 1928, requiring Easter to be fixed on the same date every year. Never implemented.

☐ Town Police Clauses Act 1847, which makes it an offence to beat or shake a carpet in the street, except doormats, before 8am. Flying a kite or sliding on ice are also forbidden.

☐ Metropolitan Streets Act 1867, which outlaws the molesting or impersonating of an authorised shoeblack.

Owen Bowcott

Millennium Man, a new breed with 'balls and brains'

Amelia Gentleman

HOT on the heels of the New Man and the New Lad comes a new breed of British male — the Millennium Man — combining the sensitivity of the caring modern male with the enthusiastic laddishness of a football hooligan.

The grandiose brand name has a promisingly modern and powerful ring to it, but the reality is rather more mundane. This kind of man "likes his beer, likes his football, knows how to handle women and isn't averse to a little high culture either".

The new breed was discovered when the magazine Maxim conducted a survey of more than 1,000 men. It revealed that Millennium Man feels just as at home in the kitchen as in the pub.

He worries about his health and is happy to be a househusband — provided his partner is generous with the housekeeping money.

Sixty per cent of these men will not be wounded if their wife or girlfriend earns more than they do, and 34 per cent see having a female boss as an opportunity to sleep their way to promotion.

Maxim's editor, Nigel Ambrose, said: "Men have been badly represented by the media recently and tend to be slotted into two stereotypes. There's the new man, otherwise known as the lentil man, who thinks only of his partner, or there's the new lad, or the mental man, who doesn't think about anything apart from birds and getting drunk.

"These are laughable categories. Eighty-eight per cent of the people we talked to were neither; they were Millennium Men — men who love football as much as the arts and who enjoy going to restaurants as much as spending time in the pub. They are proud to have both balls and brains."

Women should beware of the new breed. The magazine tells its male readers that Millennium Men "will never be dominated by their girlfriends, but they know how to play the game to get what they want and to keep her happy".

A hefty 36 per cent of them readily admitted that they were in favour of infidelity.

These men claim to want to redress a few sexual inequalities — but not in favour of women.

Forty per cent of them consider themselves disadvantaged in the modern job market and 91 per cent want to see men enjoying the same paternity rights as women.

Richard Branson, Nelson Mandela and Alan Shearer may be alarmed to discover that they are the heroes of these 21st century men, while William Hague and the Prince of Wales can relax: they are their anti-heroes.

Questions of laddishness

1) Your wife/girlfriend gets a job with a higher salary than yours. Are you . . .
a) Unconcerned — she's already the one in control?
b) Only concerned that you open a joint account a.s.a.p?
c) Worried your friends may discover this embarrassing news?

2) Your female colleague is promoted over your head. Do you console yourself that . . .
a) Women are finally being treated as equals?
b) Now you can sleep your way to the top too?
c) She slept her way to the top?

3) You and your wife/girlfriend decide to buy a car together. Do you . . .
a) Buy a Renault Clio — cheap, easy to park, with lots of boot space for shopping?
b) Read the brochures, discuss your finances, then choose the car *you'd be* always wanted?
c) Buy a Vauxhall Nova and add extra turbo-charging?

Mostly a: New Man
Mostly b: Millennium Man
Mostly c: New Lad

Bodyguard flies back to Britain

French official to visit Diana crash survivor as his memory returns

Jon Henley in Paris

TREVOR Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, Dodi Al Fayed and their driver, left hospital yesterday and flew home by helicopter to an undisclosed destination in Britain.

The 29-year-old bodyguard was carried in a French government helicopter to Issy-les-Moulineaux heliport in south-western Paris to avoid a crush of journalists outside the Pitié Salpétrière hospital where he had spent the last 34 days.

His left arm was in a plaster cast and his face was pale and puffy after 10 hours of reconstructive surgery but he was well enough to walk unaided to an Al Fayed-owned helicopter for the flight to Britain. His parents, who have been in Paris since the accident on August 31, accompanied him.

Mr Rees-Jones is almost certain to receive further treatment in Britain, probably at a private hospital.

Mohamed Al Fayed, his employer, issued a statement reading: "Trevor Rees-Jones is recuperating from grave injuries. We do not propose to comment on his whereabouts or movements."

Paris doctors decided to release the key witness to the crash after a second interview by French police on Thursday revealed that while his memory appeared to be gradually returning, he was still unable to recall anything of the crash itself.

A police official said Mr Rees-Jones had been able to describe the moments after the Mercedes left the Ritz Hotel.

Based on pictures police showed him, he was also able to comment on the behaviour of some of the photographers who tailed the car.

Doctors are confident that Mr Rees-Jones will continue to recover his memory, but they have warned it may take months.

One of the investigating magistrates, Hervé Stéphan, plans to visit him in Britain within the next two weeks to question him again.

As the investigation enters its second month, French police appear to be leaning more towards the theory that a second car was involved in the crash — possibly a red Fiat Uno entering the Pont de l'Alma tunnel from an approach road.

Executors 'could halt' Diana book

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

THE Princess of Wales's executors would have a good chance of winning an injunction banning the sale of Andrew Morton's revised biography, copyright law experts said last night.

Kevin Garnett, a leading copyright QC, rated the chances as "quite strong if they get in early enough".

But, with the books going into some shops yesterday, he said the princess's executors — her mother, Frances Shand Kydd, and her sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale — should have gone to court yesterday to maximise their chances of an injunction.

Mr Garnett said the princess — and since her death, her estate — owned the copyright in her spoken words, even if Mr Morton owned the copyright in the sound recording. When he transcribed her words and published them in a book, he breached her copyright.

"Questions about who owns the copyright in the tape recordings become pretty irrelevant," Mr Garnett said.

A successful claim by the executors could deprive Mr Morton of all the profits from the book.

The executors would have a choice of claiming the profits as damages, or the price they would have charged for granting a licence to use Diana's words.

Mark Stephens, of the media law firm Stephens Innocent, said the damages would be "astronomical" because the executors never would have licensed anyone to reproduce the words. Mr Morton would also be liable for substantial legal costs.

"They [the executors] should be skipping down the Strand with a writ in their hands."

He expected them to seek an injunction over the weekend, and advised those who want to buy the book to act quickly. "I genuinely think they will be off the shelves by tomorrow night at the latest."

A spokesman for the Spencer family said last night that they were still consulting their lawyers.

Mr Stephens said the fact that the book might be partly in the public domain was relevant in a breach of confidence case, but not in a copyright case, which was more akin to an action against the makers of pirate goods.

A duty of confidence could not be enforced after death.

"It's something that shouldn't be there, like stolen goods. You can take proceedings against car boot sale people when they've been selling bootleg goods. Morton's book is basically full of bootleg material."

Mr Stephens's firm brought successful breach of copyright actions against souvenir manufacturers who lifted the design for the official invitations and programme of the Prince and Princess of Wales's wedding.

Far from the maddening crowd

People react slowly to news of their princess

Alison Daniels

THE only people unaware of the furore over the sale of Andrew Morton's revised biography of Diana, Princess of Wales, as it went on sale in central London yesterday, were the public.

At least six television crews, 30 reporters and countless photographers, crammed into the entrance of Dillons bookshop in Bloomsbury to record the midday arrival of 500 hardback copies and the thoughts of those prepared to part with £15.99 for Diana, Her True Story – In Her Own Words.

Eager to be the first store to put the book on sale before Monday's official publication date, Dillons had dispatched a van at 8am to the Biblios warehouse in Sussex.

The only missing ingredient in this potentially lucrative bonanza was the queues. As the press hovered, bemused customers tried to sidle past. Those who failed faced questions on everything from Mr Morton's ethics and his bank balance, to the well-being of Diana's two sons.

Ellie Baylis confessed she had no idea a revised version was going on sale but thought the whole exercise did seem "a bit commercial". She added: "He wouldn't have done it if she hadn't died, but then you don't have to buy it."

One and a quarter hours late, a navy van arrived outside the store. Instantly, the pallets of cellophane-wrapped books were obscured from the gaze of pedestrians by flashing cameras.

Strangely, Arthur Edwards, the Sun's royal photographer, stood aloof from the scrum. "Leave those books alone! Stop harrassing them," he yelled.

Journalists wait for buyers of Diana, Her True Story – In Her Own Words in London PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

After-shock of Italian quake

Giottos 'safe' as new tremor hits Umbria

Philip Willan in Assisi

A FURTHER earthquake, measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale, shook the Umbrian countryside yesterday, sending bricks crashing from the roof of the badly damaged Basilica of San Francesco and causing further structural harm to its 13th-century campanile.

Even before this latest quake, some experts said a heavy thunderstorm might be enough to prompt the collapse of the pink and cream Gothic cathedral, which dominates the landscape from the top of Mount Subasio.

"The damage wasn't actually as bad as at first thought," said Father Nicola Giandomenico, a Franciscan friar from the basilica's monastery.

"A few stones fell and a few cracks widened, but we don't believe there was any fresh damage to the Giotto frescoes."

The tremor, the latest in a long series of after-shocks in the wake of last week's devastating quakes, was also strongly felt in Florence and Rome.

Some 32,000 people are sleeping out at night in tents and caravans, and even those whose houses have not suffered structural damage are wary of spending the night in a potential death-trap.

"Today we are back at square one. It's as though the last week's work was all for nothing," said a disconsolate Father Pasquale Magro, the director of the monastery museum.

"We were just in the process of moving things into safer storage. Fortunately, we had just transferred our painting of St Francis, dating from around 1260 and attributed by some to Cimabue, to a vault. The work is on wood and there is always the danger of fire when these quakes strike."

Residents of Assisi are beginning to murmur that their patron saint is angry at their having sold out to Mammon in the shape of the tourist industry. The first quakes struck on September 26, the saint's birthday, and yesterday's tremor marked the anniversary of his death.

"I was born here 70 years ago and have felt hundreds of earthquakes, but nothing like these," said Piero Brunelli, a shoeshop owner. "Tonight everyone will be leaving town and looking for somewhere to sleep in the countryside."

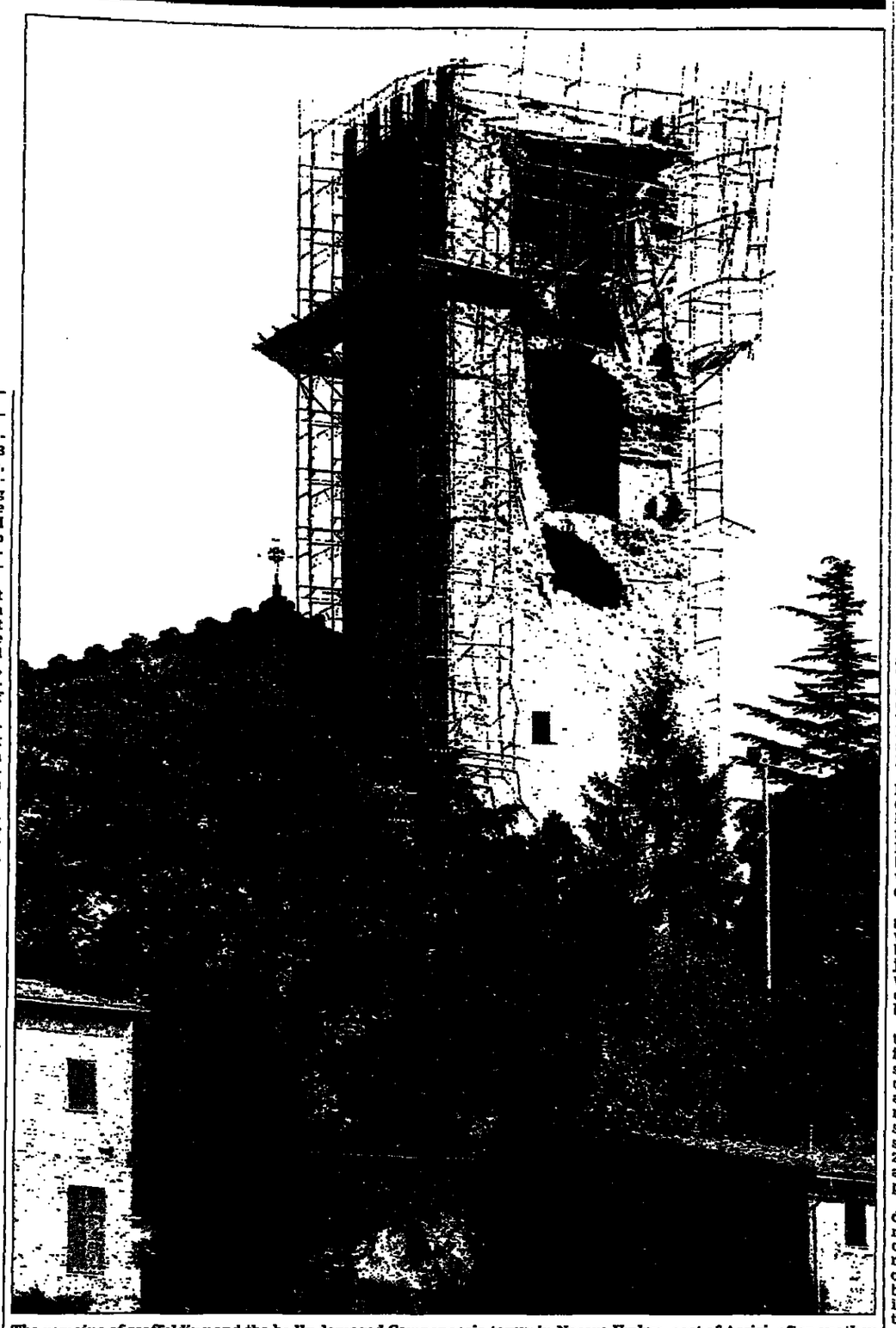
Rents in the Assisi plain have doubled since last week's tremors, he said.

Father Giuseppe Biselli, aged 72, the parish priest of Santo Stefano, the only church in Assisi that has not suffered structural damage, was unwilling to attribute his good fortune to personal holiness or the intercession of St Stephen.

"What has happened should certainly push us all to examine our consciences," he said.

"We are heading towards winter: that's the real problem. When the first heavy rains fall we will see how much damage has been done to the roofs."

But the psychological effects have already been felt in various ways — from the traffic policeman who advised two nuns to make the sign of the cross before passing under a medieval tower to hotels offering the choice of a room with a view or one with quick access to the street.



The remains of scaffolding and the badly damaged Campanaccia tower in Nocera Umbra, east of Assisi, after another earthquake yesterday. Two lethal tremors last week damaged priceless frescoes PHOTOGRAPH: FILIPPO MONTEFORTE

Mossad own goal rebounds on PM

Julian Borger in Jerusalem

EVEN by the standards of the intrigue-riddled Middle East, the attempted assassination of Khaled Meshal, a Hamas leader living in Jordan, has set a bizarre new benchmark.

It was first reported as a scuffle last Thursday between the Palestinian exile and a group of Canadian tourists on the normally tranquil streets of Amman. But as more details emerged, all of them pointing towards the Israeli secret services, the bungled attack appears to be the worst own goal in Mossad's colourful history.

Yesterday, it seemed almost certain to rebound on the man who would have had to approve the mission in person, Israel's tough-talking and flamboyant prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu.

The facts are reminiscent of a paperback thriller. Early on Thursday morning, as Mr Meshal was about to enter the office building where he worked, two men grabbed him from behind and pressed a mysterious "device" against his ear.

"I heard a loud noise. It felt like an electric shock. I immediately started shaking," Mr Meshal told journalists yesterday after he emerged from hospital. "I knew that I had been exposed to something ... when I started to get side effects."

As Mr Meshal fell to the ground, his bodyguards wrestled with the assailants, but they broke free and jumped into a waiting car which sped off with three accomplices inside and the bodyguards in pursuit.

At the other end of town, the two assailants jumped from the getaway car and sprinted away, but were caught by Mr Meshal's men and arrested by the Jordanian police. At the police station they identified themselves as Sean Kendall, aged 28, and Barry Beads, aged 36, and produced Canadian passports.

However, when Canadian diplomats arrived the two men turned down their offers of assistance. Reports were meanwhile coming in that the other members of the would-be hit-squad had taken refuge in the Israeli embassy down the road.

At the hospital, the doctors were baffled by Mr Meshal's symptoms. The attack seemed to have given him respiratory problems and a host of other complaints. No one knew what kind of weapon had been used, whether chemical or electronic. If it was designed to inflict lethal harm surreptitiously, it had clearly failed. It was without precedent even in Mossad's long career.

Nevertheless, an antidote was delivered at the weekend from King Hussein's palace. Accounts differ as to how the king obtained the cure. A United States newspaper reported that President Bill Clinton may have intervened. Jordanian reports say the king demanded the drug directly from the Israeli government.

What is known is that Crown Prince Hassan met senior Israeli officials — including a top Netanyahu aide, Danny Naveh — in Jordan on Sunday. The prince then flew to Washington.

'There is a growing feeling this government can't get it right – it just goes from screw-up to screw-up'

On Tuesday, King Hussein called on Israel to make a gesture for peace, suggesting that the release of Hamas's ailing founder and spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, might be a step in the right direction. Hours later the stretcher-bound sheikh, supposedly one of Israel's deadliest enemies, was on the Amman airport tarmac being embraced by the king.

King Hussein has strenuously denied that a deal was struck. "There is no deal. A deal is usually this for that. None of this has happened," he said after visiting Sheikh Yassin in hospital.

A diplomat in Amman suggested a comprehensive deal is still being negotiated. "It could be that Yassin's release was just for starters, to prevent the king from going public immediately. I would say the real bargaining may be about to begin."

King Hussein has some high cards in his hands. As he pointed out, he has so far given nothing away. The two suspects are still in captivity, and the police are due to hand over the investigation to the prosecutor-general next week.

Unconfirmed reports say the Jordanians are holding more members of the hit-squad in detention, while others are still said to be holed up in the embassy.

Meanwhile, the political damage to Mr Netanyahu is already considerable. Canada has recalled its ambassador, openly complaining that Canadian passports had been forged. King Hussein — the Arab world's most fervent believer in the peace process — is reported to be furious. And Mr Meshal used his press conference yesterday to pour humiliating scorn on Mossad.

At home, the political barbs from Mr Netanyahu's opponents will begin to fly only tomorrow, after the Jewish New Year holidays. He will face a sceptical public.

According to an opinion poll last week, Israel's security services are seen as the country's most important achievement of its 49-year history. They were the envy of the world, and their daring exploits have included the raid on Entebbe and the abduction of the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann. But Israel's pride and joy has taken a hammering under Mr Netanyahu.

In February, 73 Israeli soldiers died when two helicopters crashed in the north of the country. Then in August a marine commando unit was almost entirely wiped out in Lebanon when a night raid on a suspected Shi'ite guerrilla base ran into an ambush, perhaps betrayed by a double agent.

"There is a growing feeling in public that this government just can't get it right. It just goes from screw-up to screw-up," said Yossi Alpher, an analyst in the American-Jewish Committee and an expert on Israel's intelligence services.

Mr Alpher said that if, as seemed likely, the attack was a Mossad operation, it would have to have been approved personally by the prime minister.

Mr Netanyahu has proven adept at diverting blame for past mishaps on to his adversaries, Arab and Israeli. But this time the finger seems to be pointing unambiguously at him, and it will not be easy to duck.

Amazonia in flames as ranchers and loggers clear the rainforest

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

THOUSANDS of fires are burning 10,000 square miles of Amazon rainforest as loggers, cattle ranchers and peasants take advantage of the region's dry season to clear land for farming.

The fires, on as great a scale as those raging across Indonesia, are being monitored by a United States National Space Research Institute satellite.

It shows that the number of fires deliberately started in the 41 days to September 21 — the traditional dry season — is 28 per cent higher than last year, 24,549 compared with 19,115: an average of 599 fires a day compared with 466 in 1996.

More than half are in the Mato Grosso region, which has received a £150 million World Bank loan intended to halt deforestation. The logging capital, Manaus, is suffering a smog similar to that covering much of Indonesia and Malaysia — the first experienced in the Amazon region.

According to experts at the US Environment Defence Fund, burning is also taking place in the Amazon states of Para and, to a lesser extent, Tocantins, Rondonia and Maranhao.

The fund believes that the records probably understate the amount of forest clearance because they only cover the largest and longest burning fires. Some fires started during the day have burnt out by the time the satellite passes.

The figures show that the rate of deforestation, which was thought to be slowing down at the time of the Rio Earth Summit in the early 1990s, is increasing again.

Since records began in the early 1980s, more than 12 per cent of the Amazon forest has been destroyed.

Sarah Tyack, a Friends of the Earth spokeswoman, said the figures were causing alarm. "We are very concerned at the sheer scale of deforestation," she said. "The logging in the region is very great and once the forest has been thinned it is easier to burn."

She said the dry season had been longer and drier than normal, increasing the likelihood that some of the fires were out of control.

Satellite pictures show that they spread over hundreds of square miles.

Most logging in Brazil is illegal but goes unchecked by the Brazil Environment Agency because parliament has blocked enforcement legislation.

Brazil is Britain's largest supplier of tropical timber, delivering 8.26 million cubic feet in 1996.

Dark cloud descends on Jakarta

John Aglionby in Jakarta

THE smog that is enveloping much of Southeast Asia swept into the Indonesian capital Jakarta for the first time yesterday as the government revoked the permits of 29 of the companies it believes started the fires that have caused the haze.

The companies, none of them named, are among the 66 which failed to submit reports rebutting accusations that they had started fires. They will fall foul of the first major Indonesian government action against the timber and plantation barons accused of setting alight up to 1.5 million acres of forest, plantation and scrubland.

Blown by easterly winds, the smoke from fires in East and Central Java cast a depressing pall for several hours over the Jakarta skyscrapers before the sun burnt it away late in the afternoon. Meteorologists predict that the capital will be affected for at least the next two weeks.

Most ministers are refusing to take any responsibility for the fires and haze. Yesterday they banned a protest march by the country's leading environmental group, the Indonesian Environmental Forum, which is critical of the way the crisis has been handled.

International efforts to extinguish the fires were stepped up yesterday when the United Nations increased the size of its disaster team in Indonesia from four to seven people.

But the UN said there was little sign of an end to the smog, whidh is also blighting Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore. Gerard Kramer, the leader of the UN disaster relief team, said more experts had been called in because the problem was bigger than originally thought.

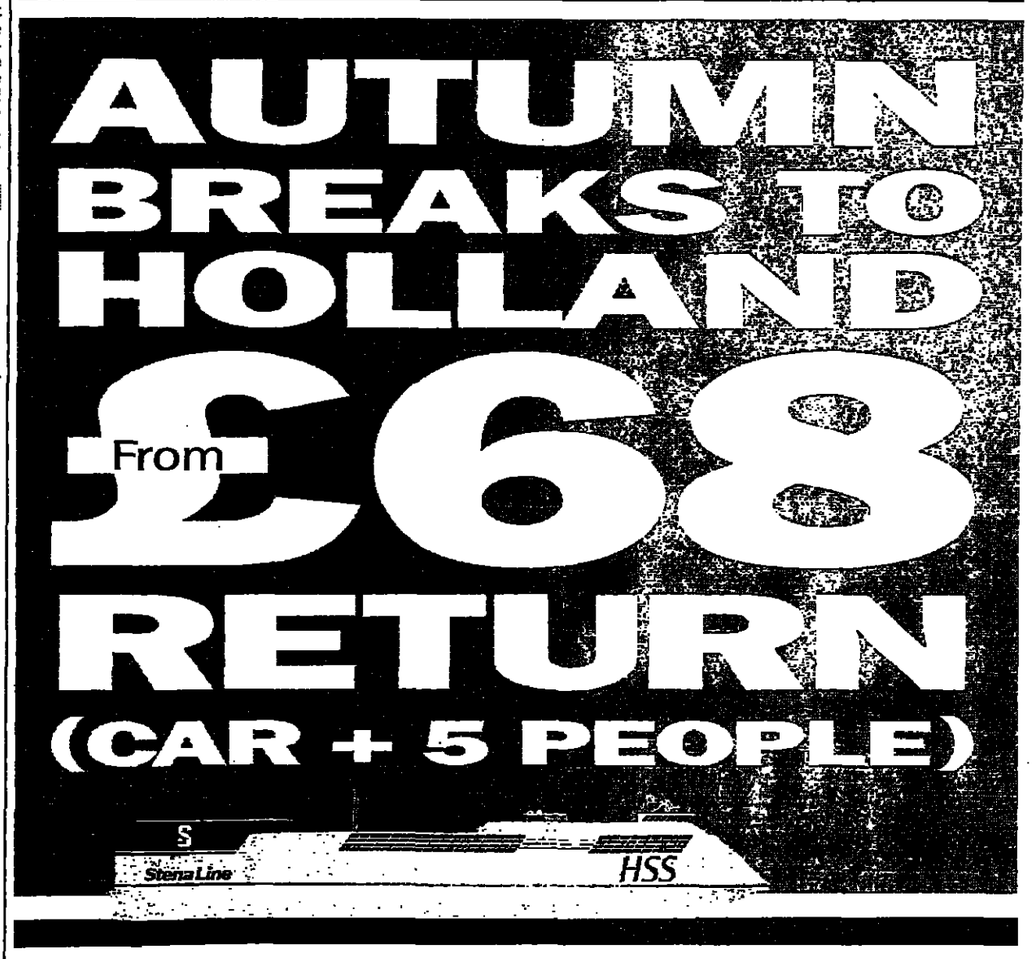
"This is because peat fires are intensifying and, as some of the peat beds are up to 10 metres deep, they are very difficult to put out," he said.

Although water bombing had done some good, the only satisfactory way to tackle the fires was on the ground, he added.

"There just aren't enough trained people to do it. The army is the only organisation with the infrastructure to make a difference, but even the soldiers are not experienced enough. Only heavy rain over a prolonged period will make a difference."

A Western satellite-image analyser estimated yesterday that up to 10,000 hotspots were still being detected across Indonesia every day. While many of the fires have been burning for some time, it was also clear that new ones were starting every day, he said.

Harwich - Hook of Holland



Fancy going over to Holland for a break this autumn? Maybe staying at one of the country's unspoilt beach resorts or driving over to Amsterdam or Maastricht? Well, Stena Line have all the best travel offers to get you there. You can enjoy a 5 Day Midweek Return for just £68 (Sun-Thur) or a 5 Day APEX return from £137 (Fri-Sat). So why are you waiting? To book, call **0990 70 70 70** or see your Travel Agent.

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The next generation of ferry company

A rare collection of paintings in the French capital will shed welcome light on Georges de La Tour, the favourite but much neglected painter of King Louis XIII

Georges de La Tour's painting Saint Sebastian Nursed by Saint Irene so moved Louis XIII that he had all other pictures removed from his bedroom

Tour de force by 'lost' artist

Paul Webster in Paris reports on the modern rediscovery of an obscure genius whose work was once attributed to Caravaggio and other artists

The Repentant Magdalen, lent by the US National Gallery

THE artistic resurrection of the 17th century French painter Georges de La Tour entered a new phase with the opening yesterday of an exhibition in Paris of all but one of his surviving works.

In the 25 years since the last show of the 35 pictures then attributed to Louis XIII's favourite artist, seven other originals, worth millions of pounds, have been found. Six ancient copies of lost paintings have also been found to complete a retrospective of 75 works for the exhibition at Le Grand Palais, which includes a number of copies.

Recent discoveries have inspired collectors' dreams that masterpieces influenced by Flemish and Italian styles could still be hidden in family attics or Church buildings.

The painting Saint John the Baptist in the Desert — bought by the French museum directorate for £1.2 million almost three years ago — will be the first De La Tour original to be hung in a new tiny museum at Vic-sur-Seille in Lorraine, where the painter's father was a baker.

De La Tour died aged 58 in Lunéville in 1652, and much of his output was destroyed when the city was burnt down in the thirty years' war. The loss contributed to his subsequent obscurity and led 18th and 19th century experts to attribute the few surviving works to Caravaggio and the three Le Nain brothers, or to anonymous artists.

"Most De La Tours have been identified only in the past 50 years," said Nicholas Powell, an arts market writer for the magazine Muséart. "His Blind Musician, in the Prado at Madrid, was unknown until 1986 when it appeared at a London auction. The Dice Players, at Preston Park, Durham, was not recognised for its true value until exhibited at the Orangerie in Paris 25 years ago."

The low level of interest until the 1972 show has meant that De La Tour's paintings may be the most scattered of any of his contemporaries. The the highest concentration, apart from the nine in the Louvre, is in the Toulouse-Lautrec museum in Albi, south-western France. The 13 originals or ancient copies found in the last 25 years have had to be borrowed from private owners and foreign museums for the exhibition.

From a historical point of view, the most interesting work by an artist who painted

The exhibition poster shows part of The Fortune Teller, lent by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

profane and religious allegories in natural and artificial light is his Saint Sebastian Nursed by Saint Irene, also known as Saint Sebastian by Lantern Light.

Louis XIII was so moved by the painting that he removed all other pictures from his bedroom.

Unfortunately, the original has been lost. It is represented at Le Grand Palais by eight ancient copies, including what appears to be the most authentic version, discovered by two British experts, Benedict Nicolson and Christopher Wright, in 1974.

The copies are being shown to illustrate the difficulty in giving definitive attribution to several works. But the Louvre's president-director, Pierre Rosenberg, who has led the treasure hunt in recent years, believes other De La Tour works could come to light.

"Recent discoveries have come about in so many different ways and this exhibition should stimulate a new search," he said.

The single authenticated De La Tour missing from the Paris show — which continues until January 26 — belongs to the Queen, the only private collector not taking part. Perhaps because he was miffed by the absence, the Louvre's paintings curator, Jean-Pierre Cuzin, dismissed it as "a secondary work".

Spain unites to toast sporting royal couple

The wedding brings together Basques, Catalans and Castilians. Adela Gooch in Madrid and Alex Duval Smith in Barcelona report

RARELY will King Juan Carlos have united so many symbols of Spain's disparate identity as today, when he gives away in marriage his youngest daughter, Infanta Cristina, to a Basque sportsman in the Catalonian capital.

Barcelona is emblazoned with banners proclaiming "Felicitats, Felicidades, Zorionak" (congratulations in Catalan, Castilian and Basque) for the wedding of the 32-year-old Infanta and Iñaki Urdangarin, aged 29, a Basque handball player whose team is owned by Barcelona football club.

The city's mayor, Joan Clos, hoping to play down the regional fusion, proposed a crest for the marriage consisting of four roses and a handball, aligned like the Olympic rings to mark the fact that the couple met at the Atlanta games last year.

But King Juan Carlos disapproved and as a result this morning's 80-minute service in Barcelona's Gothic cathedral will be conducted in three languages and a Basque choir will sing. The bride's dress has been made in Madrid but its train comes from Barcelona. Food at the reception will be Catalan and the couple have been named Duke and Duchess of Mallorca.

Yesterday, security barriers were draped in red, white, yellow and blue — the colours of Barcelona, rather than those of Spain or the royal household.

"As far as including the autonomous regions goes, it couldn't have been better planned," said the royal commentator Jaime Peñafiel.

At her father's behest, Infanta Cristina, a former member of the Spanish Olympic sailing team, has lived in Barcelona for five years and learnt Catalan in her job at the arts foundation of Caixa, the Catalan Savings Bank.

Cristina and Iñaki are popular in Barcelona as a young, modern couple whose love affair was only revealed a month before their engagement in May.

Their wedding — preceded last night by a firework display and dinner for 1,450 guests, including Prince Edward and 360 other royals — will be considerably more low-key than that of the Infanta's elder sister, Elena, in Seville two years ago.

Seville, the Andalusian capital, is fervently monarchist and its citizens turned out in force. Although Barcelona is proud to have been chosen for the wedding, its Catalan identity jars with the symbolism of the monarchy.

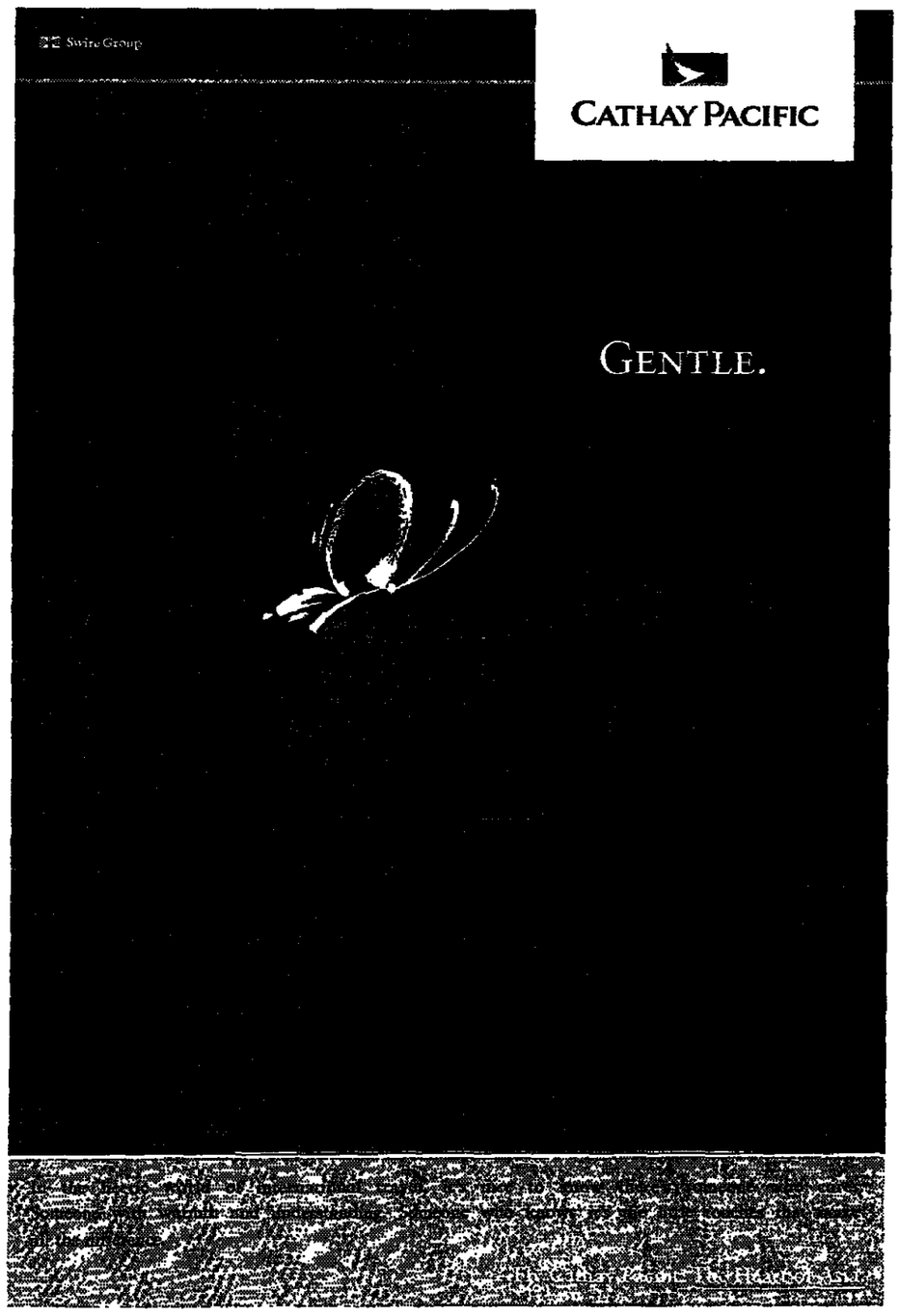
A grim historical precedent also looms over this wedding. In 1906 in Madrid, a Catalan anarchist threw a bomb disguised as a bouquet at King Alfonso XIII and his bride, Victoria Eugenia of Battenberg. The couple were not hurt but 28 onlookers died.

'As far as including the autonomous regions goes, it couldn't have been better planned'

A visit by the princess and her fiancé to the Catalan parliament was denounced by one Independence Party member as "another step to try to impose the crown on Catalonia."

More worrying for the 3,600 police deployed in Barcelona is the threat posed by the Basque separatist group ETA, which is smarting after one of its most active units was disbanded last week and two guerrillas were killed.

Mainstream Basque politicians have been lukewarm about the wedding. "The couple visited the Catalan parliament," said Iñaki Anasagasti of the Basque Nationalist Party, of which the groom's father is a member. "They should visit the Basque parliament. [The groom] should make a gesture towards the Basques."



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Hetty Vorhaus

Fearless voice of protest

HETTY Vorhaus, who has died aged 87, was a film-maker, political campaigner and sculptor whose interests spanned the Spanish civil war, support for the anti-Vietnam war movement, and the women at Greenham Common.

Like many women of her generation, her activities were often perceived in relation to her husband, the radical film director Bernard Vorhaus. Ironically, it was the attack on him by McCarthy's House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), which gave Welsh-born Hetty her voice.

She was engaged to Bernard's cousin Freddie when she met her future husband, on holiday from America. When Bernard proposed, Hetty took it on herself to break the news to his girlfriend. She realised early on that the only way to keep their marriage together was to get work in the film industry. She trained as a film cutter under Jack Harris, who edited many of David Lean's films. Bernard was rediscovered when Lean, according to the historian Kevin Brownlow, credited Bernard as "the greatest influence" on his career.

In the 1930s many creative people on both sides of the Atlantic were drawn to socialism coming, like Hetty, to the defence of republican Spain. The cooperative spirit of the times meant that, while Hetty is in all the books about socialist film units in the 1930s, she never got a credit. One political meeting at Islington Town Hall advertised "Hostess: Hetty Vorhaus."

When the Depression hit the UK film business, Hetty moved reluctantly with Bernard to Hollywood, where she maintained a weekly radio programme on KFWB about the Spanish Civil War, recruiting such well-known writers as Ring Lardner Jr.

As the all-male unions would not allow Hetty in to edit, she got a job as a dialogue director, during which time she helped her husband with his scripts.

Hetty's most famous neighbours in Hollywood were Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman. "Ronnie was always telling dirty jokes," she told me in Edinburgh in 1986. He shared rides with Bernard to act in films for the Air Force Motion Picture Unit. Worse was Reagan's suspected fingering of Bernard's leftwing sympathies after he made the official movie about the Yalta conference, which was then destroyed by the White House. Hetty and he fled America after HUAC gave the FBI a subpoena to serve on Vorhaus. They chased the family to Italy and then France before Hetty's citizenship allowed them to settle in England.

While Bernard was advised to lie low, Hetty remained politically active, drawn into the first Aldermaston march by her teenage daughter, Gwyn. She became a major figure in the British anti-Vietnam war movements, risking her life to report from Vietnam at the height of the American bombing. She combined a rare talent of polemic with a gift for sculpting and her sculpture of a Vietnamese woman shielding her child from the bombs is one of her finest. Hetty's determination to get Vietnam's representative Mme Binh into Britain was rewarded when the the Foreign Office buckled after refusing a visa 15 times.

Hetty also welcomed Jane Fonda when she came to plead the case of Mexican-American farmworkers, and Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who alerted the British people to the horrors of Chile under Pinochet. Greenham Common was Hetty's last humanitarian cause before Alzheimer's set in.

Her fighting spirit was inherited by her daughter Gwyn, who fought for breast cancer victims before dying of the disease herself in 1996. Sadly, by the time Gwyn appeared at televised hearings, Hetty's disease had taken hold. Yet, as Hetty's close friend Kathee Myers put it: "Even in Alzheimer's I was convinced that there was a person inside desperate to communicate and capable of doing it."

At a time when women are still emerging from the texts and sidelines of history, Hetty Vorhaus will be remembered by her friends in her many campaigns as a woman who devoted her life to breaking the silence.

She leaves her husband, a son, and two grandchildren.

Anita Bennett

Hetty Vorhaus, film-maker and campaigner, born December 7, 1909; died September 27, 1997

Hands-on campaigner. . . Hetty Vorhaus with her sculpture of Keir Hardie

PHOTOGRAPH: ANITA BENNETT

Face to Faith

Gays must play a part

Mark Vernon

THE CHURCH debate over homosexuality is dominated by shrill affirmations and boisterous denunciations. The danger is that a vital exploration of ethics is reduced to a sterile argument about sex. To avoid being increasingly seen as ridiculous the Church must move its fixation with "genital acts." We live in an age in which a cabinet minister goes to the Palace with his boyfriend. Gays even come "out of the closet and into the Abbey," as was said of Elton John at Princess Diana's funeral.

In a new book, *The Way Forward?*, edited by Timothy Bradshaw (Hodder & Stoughton), there is a piece that pulls the reader up with a jolt. In a surprising meeting of minds, one of the most conservative Christian voices, Oxford University's Professor Oliver O'Donovan, bumps up against queer theory. What results is no ugly clash of ideologies but a fusion of searching souls.

His contribution to finding a way forward begins with a nuanced examination of what it is to be gay, steering through essentialist and constructionist accounts. The difference, roughly put, is that if God made homosexuals then there must be a place for gay love in creation, but if homosexuals are a product of a fallen world then there can be no Christian validation of same-sex relationships.

But it is in rejecting this crude logic that O'Donovan's theological imagination breaks in, to ponder the possibility of loving others, in a world that has forgotten the beauty of Eros. He draws a parallel with his concern for "small and threatened" linguistic communities, and asks whether gay people too do not have a prophetic role for "the wider human community which needs pluriformity of language and culture to fulfil its calling."

The suggestion is that gay men and women might see themselves as drawn to a sort of vocation. Coupled with the gay sense of social action — to date usually expressed in the demand for rights — they might pursue the means to revitalise "affective friendship" as the basis for relationships. It is this that the wider human community has forgotten in the sexualisation of society. To be freed from "the legacy of Freud" requires the rediscovery of erotic love that, "liberates the energies evoked by sexual imagery for transference to the higher cultural, moral and spiritual goods, commuting the yearnings of the body into the heroism of the soul and the visionary rapture of the spirit."

This is a call for gayness to move beyond shallowness, "the supreme vice" as Oscar Wilde put it. O'Donovan is not the first to do so. Gays themselves are already making the plea.

At a more popular level, one could almost point to a quasi-movement, focused on the book *Anti-Gay*, edited by gay journalist Mark Simpson, which rather than building pride in homosexuality, cries gay shame and lesbian weakness over the contemporary state of the queer nation. The hallowed turf of the commercial scene is criticised as the worship ground of a cult which rules one's life with an ideological rod of iron. Even Peter Tatchell has declared the end of gays. The difficulty is that the present mode of being gay has a powerful and constraining hold on the imagination. Even once the comforts of coming out, that defining gay act, have been relinquished, a huge struggle remains in the attempt to think beyond and form the habits of a new way of life.

The social equality is all but guaranteed with New Labour, indicating that the legal struggle is almost over. But the argument here is that rather than just falling into assimilation, lesbians and gays might contribute something valuable to the society that is finally accepting them.

"Affective friendship" requires the rich resources of complex, compromised and celebratory stories if it is to be a sustaining presence in people's lives. Or as the gay philosopher Michel Foucault put it, "We must escape and help others escape the two ready-made formulas of the pure sexual encounter and the lovers' fusion of identities."

IN RETURN, surprising as it may seem, the Christian tradition might assist lesbians and gays with a more profound understanding of themselves. One would be a fool to see an easy synthesis lying just ahead. For gays, an offensive heterosexual, and ultimately male, superiority is still a constant feature of the Church's account of sexuality. And one cannot simply forget the suffering this causes. But even the religion that proposed "family values," strangling those it includes as much as oppressing those it casts out, has not been able to forget its founder who declared it was his friends and companions who were his mother and sisters and brothers.

There would then be a final irony in the encounter of Church and gays. Its refusal to succumb to the demands of gay rights is in part due to a refusal to treat homosexuality trivially. If the Church can risk the dialogue, a modern ethic that benefits all people might emerge. For a deepening of the self is a spiritual exercise through which everyone's humanity grows.

Mark Vernon is an Anglican priest who is now working as a journalist

Dr Sayed Mutawalli ad-Darsh

Imam who guided his people

DR SAYED Mutawalli ad-Darsh, who has died aged 66, was an outstanding scholar, thinker and journalist whose contribution to the British Muslim community was outstanding. Highly respectable, approachable and sensitive, he was the peoples' Imam (leader) who conducted his affairs with dignity, wisdom and style. Nobody was better qualified to perform the task of guiding British Muslims in their struggle to build a vibrant and dynamic community.

He was born into a religious family in a village in the Eastern Delta region of Egypt and by the age of 12 was a *hafiz* — somebody who had memorised the entire Koran. By the time he entered Al-Azhar University in Cairo he was already showing signs of outstanding intellectual ability. On graduation he was appointed an Imam and lecturer in the university's faculty of theology.

In the mid-1960s he spent a year at Dundee University, where he got a diploma in English. He followed this with teaching and missionary work in Lagos, Nigeria.

In 1970, ad-Darsh and his mentor and friend, Shaykh Abdul Halim Mahmoud, rector of the Al-Azhar, introduced a plan to guide Islamic missionary work, the university's publications policy and the strategy of sending graduates to work abroad. With the mission completed, ad-Darsh was posted to London.

He arrived in December 1971 and for the next nine years was an Imam at the Islamic Cultural Centre in Regent's Park Mosque. In 1980 he left to embark on a second career as columnist and broadcaster.

Ad-Darsh contributed to Al Sharq al-Awsat and Al-Muslimoon, two of the leading London-based Arabic newspapers, and to an Arabic satellite station. But it was with his agony uncle column in the magazine, Q-News, aimed at second generation Muslims, that ad-Darsh was to make the most impact.

WHEN I first approached him a few weeks before the paper was launched, in March 1992, neither of us imagined the success the feature would have. During the last five years he answered questions ranging from contraception to marriage, usury to the national lottery. The sensitivity, knowledge and vision displayed in the answers made the column popular worldwide.

His other contributions ranged from youth work to relief efforts. He was one of

Dr ad-Darsh: sensitivity

the founder trustees of the charity, Muslim Aid; a patron of the Federation Of Student Islamic Societies in the UK and Eire (FOSIS) and The Muslim Student Societies (MSS); and a friend of women's organisations such as the north London-based An-Nisa Society and the Association of Muslims with Disabilities. He was also the secretary of the UK Islamic Sharia Council.

His death is a big loss for the entire community. Dr ad-Darsh's training in the traditional Islamic sciences, combined with his grassroots experience, practical wisdom and courage to deal with real issues head-on, leaves a gap that will be hard to fill. He will be especially missed by young British Muslims for whom he was the one "Mullah" they had come to trust.

He leaves a wife, Fathia, two sons and two daughters.

Fuad Nahdi

Sayed Mutawalli ad-Darsh, imam, scholar and broadcaster, born December 26, 1930; died September 25, 1997

Douglas Gray

Guardian of the treasure trove

DOUGLAS Gray, who has died aged 74, made a contribution to all the arts in Scotland. A pioneering independent record producer, he set up a small studio in his native Aberdeen at the end of the war. In more than 50 years he built up a huge archive of Scottish songs, poems and literature — particularly the works of Robert Burns — recorded by the leading interpreters of the day.

A tall, serious-looking individual with a dry sense of humour, Gray was described by a friend as a "loveable eccentric." For eight years he was assistant director of the Scottish Film Council and then set up Park Film Studios in Glasgow.

While producing films, mainly documentaries, he continued to make records, finding the two activities fitted neatly together. He recorded many Scottish artists and live poets including Hugh MacDiarmid, Norman MacCaig, George Bruce (his cousin), Edwin Muir and George Mackay Brown.

Almost by accident he found himself with a Scottish No 1 hit record on his hands — of Duncan Macrae doing his Hogmanay party piece about *The Wee Cock Sparra That Sat On A Barra*, slightly to the embarrassment of Macrae, who preferred to be recognised for his more serious work as an actor. He made a recording called *Highland Voyage*, featuring Macrae as Para Handy, the Clyde puffer skipper created by Neil Munro. He then hired a puffer and filmed Macrae in the Para Handy role, together with Roddy McMillan and John Grieve, two of the original crew in a highly successful 1959 BBC Scotland television series. The film never got a cinema release and lay forgotten for more than two decades until it was rediscovered and shown on the BBC.

For 15 years Gray owned the little Solsgirth Theatre in an old manor house at Kirkintilloch near Glasgow. Andrew Cruickshank opened it and people like Hugh MacDiarmid were regular performers.

THERE is a story of the unworldly attitude of Gray, when Tom Fleming and Edith McArthur appeared there. They asked where they should change. "Oh there's a room here," said Gray, ushering them both into the same dressing room, where they discovered there were no curtains and would be in full view of the audience arriving. After the successful show, Gray counted the takings and put a

Gray: pioneering producer

pile of notes and coins into the hands of Fleming, the great actor and state occasion commentator, to be shared with McArthur. How unlike the world of contracts and cheques in envelopes they were used to.

For the past 17 years Gray lived at Brig o'Turk, near Callander, running the village "post office and art gallery," working on transferring his treasure trove of recordings from old master tapes and discs to digital. (All his film work was in the safekeeping of the Scottish Film Archive). He was also chairman of the Trossachs Highland Festival, and had been working on writing and printing the local news-sheet, Talk of the Trossachs, when he suffered the first of two heart attacks that ended his life.

His wife, Paula, a lecturer in zoology at Glasgow University, predeceased him. They had four children.

Andrew Young

Douglas Gray, Scottish archivist, born October 8, 1922; died August 7, 1997

Letters

Jack Gold writes: I had the great privilege of working with Graeme McDonald *(obituary, October 2)* on *Mad Jack* and *Stocker's Copper*. He had the knack of all great producers of casting well behind the camera. He nurtured writers who pushed the boundaries in form and content. For a director his empathy and support were total but not indulgent. His humour and humanity will be sorely missed.

L S George writes: With regard to the obituary *(September 27)* of Andrew Fountaine, former Chairman of the National Front, I noted with interest your innovative decision to depart from the normal practice of asking a friend or colleague of the deceased to write the obituary, and instead use one written by a political "arch-enemy", Gerry Gable. This new concept certainly ensures an unsympathetic and critical view of the deceased, although perhaps not so accurate as that of a close colleague. However, it should rejuvenate a normally mournful page and we could look forward to more entertaining obituaries in the fullness of time, such as Maggie Thatcher's written by Arthur Scargill, or even Gerry Gable's written by BNP leader, John Tyndall!

The Rev R J M Collins writes: As a member of Cheshunt College during Dr Whale's presidency may I add a postscript to Dr Jenkins's excellent obituary *(September 19)*.

Under Dr Whale's presidency the college flourished. Among the students, some of whom came from abroad, one became a distinguished New Testament scholar, another principal of a theological college. Dr Whale was opposed to the "seminarist mind." Candidates for entry either had to be graduates or be prepared to take part of the Cambridge degree in other subjects before completing the course in theology. They were encouraged to join university societies and take part in debates. Many distinguished theologians and church leaders came to the college, notably Dr Joe Oldham, editor of the Christian News Letter, Reinhold Niebuhr, the American theologian, and William Paton, secretary of the International Missionary Council.

Weekend Birthdays

"Chuck out your chintz" may be IKEA's current catchphrase, but in the home-clear-out revolution the Swedes come a poor second to that guru of contemporary design **Sir Terence Conran**, 66 today, whose first Habitat store in 1964 caught perfectly the mood of a Britain yearning to be free of dowdy three-piece suites and poky kitchens. Conran gave us steel, pine, canvas, colour, light and space — an astute mix of clean modernity and ethnic texture, all at affordable prices — and became a multi-millionaire in the process.

He's weathered a few financial storms since. He lost an estimated £170 million when forced out of his Storehouse conglomerate, and three months ago his third marriage ended in a bitterly contested settlement of £10.5 million. But business is booming again on the back of the upmarket Conran shops and smart London restaurants such as Le Pont de la Tour, where the Blairs entertained the Clintons earlier this summer.

The political mood has come full circle too. The man who launched his business in the age of Harold Wilson now extols a Labour government actually *interested* in design and architecture. And from his loft apartment atop the Design Museum, on the Thames, Conran has become a powerful advocate for an elected mayor to tackle what he sees as London's direst social problems, transport and homelessness.

Today's other birthdays: **Jackie Collins**, author, 60; **Basil D'Oliveira**, cricketer, 66; **Lesley Glaister**, novelist, 41; **Harry Greenway**, former Conservative MP, 63; **Eddie Gomez**, jazz bassist, 53; **Charlton Heston**, actor, 73; **Tony Meo**, snooker champion, 38; **Giles Radice**, Labour MP, 61; **Susan Sarandon**, actress, 51; **Jim Sillars**, former Scottish National MP, 60; **Ann Widdecombe**, MP, former Conservative minister, 50.

Tomorrow's birthdays: **Peter Ackroyd**, writer, 48; **John Bridgeman**, director-general, Office of Fair Trading, 53; **Laura Davies**, golfer, 34; **Bob Geldof**, rock singer and campaigner, 43; **Jim Godbolt**, jazz historian, 75; **Vaclav Havel**, playwright, novelist, president of the Czech Republic, 61; **Glynis Johns**, actress, 74; **Robert Kee**, author and broadcaster, 78; **Herbert Kretzmer**, lyricist, 72; **Kate Losinka**, trade unionist, 73; **David Mellor**, silversmith and designer, 67; **Norman Shrapnel**, political commentator, 85; **Adair Turner**, director-general, CBI, 42.

Death Notices

DENNIS. Evelyn Maude (née Begley), peacefully on 2nd October. Much loved wife of Guy, mother of Colin and Sylvia, mother-in-law of Will and Marion and grandmother of Clive and Roy. Cremation at Cambridge Crematorium 3pm 8th October. Donations may be sent to Methodist Homes for the Aged, Epworth House, Stuart Street, Derby DE1 2EQ.

HIGNETT. Dr Michael Charles, died peacefully on 29th September 1997 aged 82. Dearly loved husband of Shirley and brother of Margaret and Dorothy. Family flowers only please, donations to British Diabetic Association or Cancer Research Campaign. Enquiries to Michael A Lawrence Funeral Director, 01622 661 878.

O'CONNOR. Dr Neil, died suddenly 1st October, aged 80. Eminent research psychologist. Deeply loved husband and father, a unique person of great wit and perception. Funeral 1pm Friday, October 10th at Putney Vale Cemetery, Stag Lane, Putney SW15. Family flowers only, donations if wished for Mental Health Research made to Mrs M O'Connor, c/o Rosa and Craig (Ref. JMP), 12a Upper Berkeley St, London W1H 7PE

RIDLEY. Regents Close, Whitburn, Sunderland. Formerly of Sacriston, County Durham. Peacefully on October 1st Olive née Armstrong aged 91 years. Beloved wife of the late Jack Ridley, mother of Tony and his wife Jane, grandmother to Sarah and husband John, Jonathon and partner Karen, and Michael. Would friends please meet at St Andrews Church, Roker, Sunderland on Tuesday October 7th for service at 12.20pm prior to commital in Sunderland Crematorium at 1.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if so desired to Regents Close Residential Home, Church Lane, Whitburn, Sunderland. All enquiries to C.W. Tait Funeral Directors, 48 Roker Avenue, Sunderland. Telephone: 0191 510 2944 where all floral tributes will be accepted.

SIDGREAVES. Clari Demain, aged 60 years on October 2nd peacefully in hospital after a courageous fight against leukemia. Dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral service at Christchurch, Clifton, Bristol on Thursday October 9th at 2pm, followed by cremation at Canford. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Haematology Unit (staff fund), Southmead Hospital, c/o R. Davies and Son, 53 Westbury Hill, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

Marriages

BLAKE/MACDONALD. Neil Blake & Helen MacDonald marry today at St. Peter's, Woolton, Liverpool. Love from us all.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4129 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

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The long debate has concluded

Now for the virtual conference

SAY GOODBYE, for you may never see its like again. The Labour conference that wound up in Brighton yesterday talked much of the dawn of a new age — but it also marked the end of an era. What we witnessed these last five days was the swansong of a political ritual that endured from the founding of the Labour Party, through the glory days of 1945, to the rancorous chaos of the 1980s. Now the traditional Labour conference is to be discarded, its fate sealed this week when the conference approved the Partnership in Power reforms, which will transform Labour decision-making. We can reminisce for a while about the loss of a British institution, but then we should ponder the question left behind. It applies not just to Labour but across British politics: what is the future of the party conference?

Perhaps the starting point is a frank admission that old-fashioned debate has been all but removed from the event. It used to be just the Tories who were stage-managed — though William Hague may wish that were true come Tuesday, when the remnant of his party will descend on Blackpool — but now Labour is an equally conflict-free zone. This week's withdrawal of hostile motions on university tuition fees and on rail renationalisation ensured that the Labour leadership enjoyed its third successive conference without a single defeat. The annual seaside get-together may be fun, but it's no longer serious politics.

Party managers should come clean about this. They should drop the pretence that conference is about making, in the vogue phrase, the "hard choices" of policy. Those have already been made elsewhere. Instead, they should admit that conference is a showcase, a chance for a political party to sell its wares to the electorate — chiefly via television. Since that's so obviously the situation, why not reshape the conference accordingly? Tony Blair's handlers conceded this week that his speech was not pitched at the delegates in the hall, but those viewing at home. OK, then why not let him make it in the evening, when more people could tune in? While we're at it, why not schedule all the major speeches for primetime, perhaps following the recent US custom of "themed" nights — health on Monday, education on Tuesday, and so on? There might have to be fewer speeches at the podium: talking heads make bad TV. But there is no shortage of alternatives, including the pre-speech video which can make the mechanics of policy and government accessible and even, on occasion, exciting.

Critics will instantly condemn all such innovation as "dumbing down". But it need not be. An annual chance for the three main parties to explain themselves to a mass audience, using the best techniques at their disposal, could represent an exercise in civic education. The politicians could be as propagandistic as they like: equal time would ensure balance. No longer located in the annual conferences, the business of policy-making will simply shift elsewhere. The press, in particular, should recognise this fact fast. Journalists must insist on covering the National Policy Forum, where Labour now plans to deliberate in secret. At conference itself, reporters should switch their attention away from the made-for-TV theatrics in the auditorium and toward the fringe meetings. Party conferences are now like the Edinburgh Festival: the best stuff is at the fringe (witness the gaffes of Messrs Mandelson and Banks, both uttered outside the Brighton Centre).

As Robin Cook has pointed out, the old seaside powwows evolved at a time when people relied on the railways and could only manage to get together once a year. Those limitations have now vanished, thanks to communications technology. We could soon have "virtual conferences", with activists offering their views electronically, at any time. Labour's Policy Forum could just as easily work by trading views on computer home-pages as in the airless rooms of a conference centre. There are countless ways to do it. If Labour is truly the party of modernisation, it should lead the way.

Taste and distaste

Books, bombs and Diana's memory

IT HAS NOT taken long after the Princess of Wales's death for new questions of taste to be raised. Yesterday's papers — including our own — carried a picture of Clare Short on Brighton beach wearing body armour to publicise the campaign against landmines. Some critics complained that her pose echoed the pictures of Diana in Angola. A more vehement body of criticism has been aroused by Andrew Morton's revised book on the princess which went on sale yesterday. The palace described it as blatant exploitation: Mr Morton claims to have behaved "extremely honourably." There were crowds waiting to buy the first copies.

The mood of national consensus — almost a feeling of collective distaste — after the funeral is clearly not going to last, and these two episodes, although very different in scale, will be the first of many more. Ms Short sought to focus attention on a humanitarian campaign supported by millions of ordinary people to which most governments have acceded reluctantly and under public pressure. What drove the parallel home with the image from Angola was not so much the body armour as the use of an identical sign, in Portuguese, warning of the danger of mines. Perhaps the campaign should use a sign in Cambodian instead.

The publication of Mr Morton's book poses issues of greater magnitude. Any funds raised by Clare Short's efforts will go solely to help the victims of war. Mr Morton has promised to make a donation of undisclosed size in memory of Diana, but no one is disputing that he, his publishers and the bookshops will profit hugely. The matter would not end even in the unlikely event that they gave all the proceeds to charity. For publication of this revised version involves the release of new and very personal information about Diana and others close to her who are still alive. It is not just a matter of revealing "the methodology behind the book", as its author claims. He also argues that failure to reveal her role in the original book would be "to dishonour her memory." Diana will surely be remembered for much more substantial contributions to life. There is also the question of timing. Mr Morton protests that he did not start discussing a new edition with his publisher until the end of the week after the fatal accident. A week may be a long time in today's media world, but that still seems like extraordinarily indecent haste.

Letters to the Editor

Buses, Banks and beacons

YOUR Leader (When air pollution stops Paris, October 2) struck a chord with me, crawling along on the No 38 bus in north London during rush-hour because of parked cars obstructing bus routes. It is the enforcement of bus and cycle lanes that is crucial to the improved efficiency of public transport systems within London and other congested cities.
(Dr) Paul Crowther.
4 St Jude Street,
London N16 8JT.

MORE buses equals more pollution from that worst of exhausts — diesel particulates. Much better to spend the extra cash to bring back electric trams or trolley buses, where all the pollution is removed from the point of use.
Robert Bracegirdle.
1 Sickleholm Drive,
Stoneygate,
Leicester LE5 5TS.

YOU would have been forgiven for thinking that the "vulnerable" students your reporter refers to (Cults target vulnerable students, October 1) are at primary school, not 18-year-old independent adults. I was shocked to read that the NUS does not think that I am capable of dealing with an over-zealous Christian.
Stuart Simpson.
(Undergraduate),
Goldsmith's College,
University of London.
London SE14 6NW.

IN HIS short time as sports minister, Tony Banks has committed several gaffes, most of which can be easily forgotten. There is one, though, which will be much longer lasting and hopefully a new sports minister can put matters right; that is the appointment of David Mellor as the football fans' champion.
Terry Sweeney.
152 Lichfield Road,
Cambridge CB1 3TR.

AS AN ex-foetus (a little over 66 years ago), I feel that I also deserve an apology from Tony Banks (Letters, October 3).
(Dr) John Baker.
4 Belvoir Road,
Cambridge CB4 1JJ.

FULL marks for your article on the Farnborough arms fair (October 2). We can hardly be a "beacon to the world" while this obscenity continues. But why include a photo of your man? Will this not discourage constructive gate-crashing in future?
Richard Mackie.
24 Chestnut Manor,
Croydon Road,
Wallington,
Surrey SM6 7PF.

WHATEVER have you done with the weather map? I hope the disappearance is only temporary as the replacement schematic is pretty hopeless. I always found the synoptic map (which I made a point of checking daily) far more useful than the forecast text.
(Dr) Stuart Hill.
Windrush,
Jesmond Gardens,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
Tyne & Wear NE2 2JN.

RABELAIS once asked if a chimaera, bombinating in a vacuum, could swallow second intentions. It was, and is, a good joke. I wonder if both attackers and defenders of contemporary French writing have overlooked something integral to the French sense of humour (Letters, October 3)?
D G Mayers.
92 Rossiter Road,
London SW12 9RX.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. Please supply a full postal address

Blame the boardroom

AS a lawyer acting for some victims of the Southall train crash, and who acted for the Marchioness victims in an unsuccessful attempt to bring a private prosecution for corporate manslaughter, I would like to make the point that it is not enough just to prosecute the company (New disasters charge likely, October 3).

The only sanction against a company is a fine, which, history shows, is an insufficient deterrent to prevent flagrant breaches of health and safety. Moreover, corporate manslaughter must not be used as a cover to scapegoat the people who are simply carrying out instructions and have no say in the decision-making process, such as the driver of a train.

The only really effective deterrent to corporate manslaughter is if company directors face the possibility of prison sentences. The Law Commission, which recommended that companies should be prosecuted *without* individuals being prosecuted also, missed the point about the potential for corporate entities being used to mask individual responsibility at director level for needless deaths.
Louise Christian.
42 Museum Street,
London WC1A 1LY.

A CHARGE of corporate killing would remove part of the responsibility of the individual for acting safely and with excellence. Each individual would be protected by their corporate umbrella, which they could blame for their under-performance.

Instead of encouraging directors to scrutinise the actions of each employee lest their mistakes lead to that director being held responsible, we should be encouraging greater empowerment of the individual to, for example, stop the production line if a quality defect is suspected. Instead of making the corporate collective responsible for the individual employee, we should be trying to increase individual accountability for their actions.

The contention that safety and profit are in some way at odds is also simple-minded. No private sector company acting under the profit motive would find it cost-effective to reduce safety procedures for short-term gain. Many airline brands have disappeared following a single crash, irrespective of their good safety record. An excellent safety record is a pre-requisite for continued profitability.
Simon Buckingham.
6 Goldwell Drive
Newbury, Berks RG14 1HZ.

THE proposal to bring a new crime of corporate killing onto the statute book is both welcome and long overdue.

Even when fines have been imposed following a fatality, they have generally been derisory. Provisional figures for this year suggest an increase of 20 per cent in workplace fatalities.

Whatever the legal complexities of a new law of corporate killing, and they cannot not be exaggerated, there is a fundamental human axiom the efficacy of which is to be commended, particularly with respect to the jailing of individual company directors — when one goes down, all sit up.
(Dr) Charles Woolfson.
Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Glasgow,
Lilybank House,
Glasgow G12 8RT.

The price of freedom

GEORGE Monbiot (Freedom comes with a high price-tag, October 1) is right to warn about government's growing tendency to charge for information. Every small gain in access rights has come at a cost, which has deterred many users.

Fees under recent openness measures, though sometimes waived, have also led to demands for hundreds or even thousands of pounds. If the promised Freedom of Information Act adopts this approach, it will benefit only those who can pay, primarily large businesses.

Clearly, departments need to be shielded from gigantic, unmanageable applications. The Act could require requests to be specific, though people must be given the means to identify what is held, so they can target their requests. By all means charge businesses the full costs. But where disclosure contributes to government accountability, individuals, voluntary bodies and the media should pay nothing, or copying costs only. Any other approach risks empowering commercial users who will pay whatever is asked — while leaving the citizen as much in the dark as before.
Maurice Frankel.
Director, The Campaign for Freedom of Information.
Suite 102,
16 Baldwins Gardens,
London EC1N 7RJ.

GEORGE Monbiot confirms that the unfortunate experiences I have had with Carmarthenshire County Council are part of a much wider problem.

Being overcharged for photocopying is not the only way to frustrate the public in its attempts to access information. I have been misinformed, ignored, and refused information that I have a right to see. Public registers have not been available for inspection and information promised by the council has not been sent to me. In the 17 months since the changeover to the new unitary authority, services to the public have degenerated dramatically. The mineral planning office has, for instance, been relocated four times.

Currently, free access to information is an illusion; the reality is that it is not usually available. When is the Government going to introduce legislation that will really make a difference to those of us that have to deal with obstructive councils, government departments, quangos and corporations on a day to day basis?
Tim Shaw.
Pantglas, Hafod Bridge,
Llanwrda, Carms SA19 8BW.

We're not all paedophiles

DESPITE the appalling revelations of the Bryn Estyn inquiry into organised child abuse in residential homes in North Wales, and similar cases elsewhere, Linda Grant's blanket assertion of "institutional care run by a bureaucracy of paedophiles" (Women who buy the full monty, September 30) is extremely offensive.

As a retired residential social worker and foster carer, I can assure your readers that our childcare institutions contain far more staff whose motivation stems from a desire to attempt to alleviate the abuse and cruelty which these children have suffered in their own families.

In the course of the last seven days, I have coped with the death from a drugs overdose of a former foster-child, aged 21, and the threatened imprisonment of another, a young single mother, for non-payment of fines, when her only crime is poverty. I love both of them, and despite the fact that my "duty of care" ended some years ago, I have continued to be there for them, as best I could.

I resent Ms Grant's bland generalisation, which demonstrates a complacent lack of knowledge. She owes an apology to the hundreds of people who take on these grossly damaged victims of society with love, lack of prejudice and a genuine desire to help.
Jennie Beams.
19 Swallowfields,
Totnes, Devon TQ9 5LA.

On sex, in all its configurations

MARC Ramsbottom (Letters, October 3) believes that he is different because he is gay and is proud of his sexuality. He also states that one cannot consider a gay person the same as a straight one except for the choice of person they sleep with.

Should I be proud of my heterosexuality? Being gay confers no special ability or insight on a person. For my part, I enjoy my gay friends and family as people but I wish they would stop being obsessed with their sex lives.
Derek Parsons.
8 Percy Road,
Shirley,
Southampton,
Hampshire SO16 4DS.

I AM afraid, Ben Bradshaw, that you fool no-one with your preposterous vision of Blair's rainbow Britain (Safe sex on the agenda, September 30). The impression I get from his article is that Mr Bradshaw is embarrassed by the lesbian and gay community and he has completely bought into the Blair gospel of blandness and homogeneity.
Paul McDermid.
48a Eugene Street,
Dublin 8, Ireland.

IF THE Strasburg Court's expected opinion condemning Britain's discriminatory law on gay consensual sex is as coruscating as your report anticipates (Free vote on gay age of consent, October 2), it will have ramifications far beyond the age of consent but will come too late, unfortunately, to halt an unusual case in this area. Eight men are now awaiting trial at Bolton crown court for alleged consensual gay sex, which took place in private houses. Nobody was harmed and the matter only came to light because — as in the notorious Spanner case — a private video came into the hands of the police (having been given to them by somebody with a grudge).

Because more than two people were present during each of the alleged acts, the matter becomes criminal under a section of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act which has been condemned by the Criminal Law Revision Committee (in 1984).

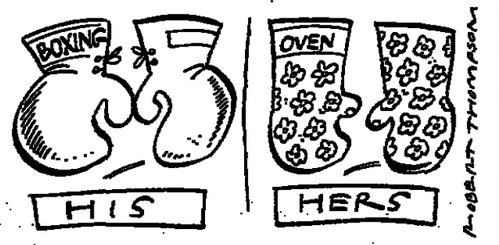
There would be no offence if the participants had been heterosexual or lesbian. All the men have legal aid and the resulting burden on the public purse will mean that a cruel injustice also becomes an expensive nonsense.
Allan Horsfall.
91a Longcauseway,
Farnworth,
Bolton BL4 9BW.

Hole in the Net

I THINK the use of the Internet (Leader, October 3) is a denial of democracy to the majority of the citizens of Britain, let alone the Third World.

I have been using e-mail since Prestel in the early 1980s. If I were new to the game, I estimate that it would cost me about £1,500 for equipment, £100 or more for a telephone line, and then some £20 per month in running costs. If I earned £3.45 per hour, was unemployed, homeless, or your average citizen of Africa, China or India the Net would be unavailable to me.

Democracy must be equally there for all citizens, not biased in favour of those with technological expertise and money. What happened to the cheapest method of communication, the human voice?
Ron Press.
112 Amberley Road,
Little Stoke,
Patchway,
Bristol BS12 6BY.



Knocked out

HENRY Cooper assures us that "women are made for loving, not hitting" (Anger over girls' boxing bout, October 2), yet elsewhere you report that "one in four women in the UK will experience domestic violence at some point in their lives". So what should women do? Take it on the chin? Grin and bear it? Leave home . . . as long as they stay "ladylike"?
Michelle Pepratx-Evans.
8 The Drive,
Roundhay,
Leeds LS8 1JF.

WHAT does Julie Burchill mean that "girls understand pop at a gut level, as opposed to boys, who understand it with their groins and brains in equal parts, both equally unreliable"? (According to Paul, Books, October 2). What arrogant tosh. If the popularity of boy bands like East 17, Boyz 2 Men and Take That is any indication, her assertion lacks any credibility. Had it been penned by a male and the genders swapped, this would have been labelled as sexist with mysoginistic undertones.
K R Scoble.
54 Holborn Street,
Woodhouse, Leeds LS6 2QP.

It may be welfare to you; but it's just unfair to me

IT makes me very angry when I read you praising the Government's welfare-to-work proposals (Leader, October 2) because, as someone at the sharp end, I see that they are more window-dressing than substance.

There are many reasons for being unemployed — age, gender, race, disability, geography. I am unemployed and in my early fifties, yet over and over again I have found myself passed over in favour of those younger or less qualified, who often turn out to be somebody's girlfriend or somebody's crony. It is useless to provide education and training if that is not the problem.

Yet, in spite of the variety of the circumstances of the poor and unemployed, there only seems to be one policy, ie that designed to contain a criminal underclass. Anyone not a member of this category, but unfortunate enough to find themselves tangled up in the job-seeker's allowance, will pretty soon find themselves turned into one, by dint of policies that consider low levels of benefits virtuous, encourage low aspirations and are backed up by propaganda campaigns that encourage the prejudices of the comfortable majority.

Millions have been traumatised by the huge inequalities that have opened up in society. In any other situation, busloads of social workers would turn up to offer counselling, but, in this instance, there is no recognition that there might even be a problem.
(Dr) Sue Lord.
74 Albany Street,
Hull HU3 1PN.

A Country Diary

MACHYNLLETH: On the north face of Cader Idris there is a cliff, where what has been described as Britain's rarest fern was found long ago. The fern is oblong woodsia, whose scientific name, *ilvensis*, is extremely unscientific. *Ilvensis* means "from the isle of Ilva (ie Elba)"; but this fern is an arctic-alpine, and quite unknown on Elba or anywhere near there. Presumably somebody somewhere was careless enough to get specimens or labels mixed up.

In Wales, this little fern is now known only on and near Snowdon. But optimistic botanists on Cader Idris always keep an eye open for it, though it has not been reported since 1895. So last week, friends and I kept it in mind as we scrambled about the corrie where it was last seen. We saw many good plants — like moss campion, alpine meadow-rue, roseroot and starry and mossy saxifrages. There was plenty of parsley fern, but the woodsia fern, if it is still there, dodged us successfully. A few days later, I helped in the search for another rare plant with a misleading name — alpine enchanter's nightshade. The name is misleading because there is nothing really alpine about where the plant lives. Instead, it belongs to semi-upland districts in shady woods or amongst rocks.

We were on the tree-shadowed margin of a stream that marks the border between Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire, at about 600ft above sea level. The nightshade had been discovered a few weeks before on the Cardiganshire bank, a new county record; now we found it on the opposite side, and so added a new species to the Montgomeryshire list as well. Even better was to come: when we chanced to look up at the trees, we found many of them patched with the beautiful, but now rather rare, tree lungwort, a leafy lichen declining in many districts because of worldwide air pollution.

WILLIAM CONDRY

Morton's betrayal in turning death to credit

Mark Lawson

ANDREW MORTON seems to have taken rather literally the common platitude that any memorial to Princess Diana must reflect the nature of her life. She was humiliated by the release of her private conversations on tape. So he has decided to mark her death by publishing the contents of secret cassettes of her speaking.

As a journalist whose revelations changed the course of British history and made him a multi-millionaire, Morton has always attracted envy and resentment. But I write as a former devout Mortonite, one of the relatively few reviewers who took his book, Diana: Her True Story, seriously from the time of its publication in 1992. My interest was based on the assumption that the book was ventriloquism for the princess. Accordingly, it was relief rather than resentment I felt this week when Morton's admission that the book was indeed a disguised autobiography revealed his strenuous denials to me in two separate interviews (in print and on television) to have been lies.

Morton isn't a moral leper because he lied then. He is a moral leper because he has chosen to tell the truth now. The writer's decision to republish Her True Story with first-person quotation replacing third-person nuance — and his apparent release to America's People magazine of the tapes the princess made for him — raise two issues of media behaviour, which are at least as important as the currently much-discussed question of privacy: the first is confidentiality; the second is commercial exploitation of tragedy.

Other professions, which offer safety deposit boxes for conversation, would expel members who behaved as Morton has. The Catholic priest is not freed from the confidentiality of the confessional by the death of the penitent, nor is the lawyer's duty of secrecy suddenly dissolved should the client happen to misjudge the speed of a bus outside the court.

Perhaps journalists have never aspired to the standards of the Church or the law. Even so, it would be surprising if journalism courses teach that confidentiality is merely a lifetime guarantee. It seems unlikely that those reporters who have risked imprisonment by refusing to identify a source would have made an instant phone call to the judge if they recognised in the obituaries column one morning a name they had carefully omitted from their contacts book.

Cynics might have assumed that Morton would use the traditional defence for invading privacy or breaking confidences: that celebrities like Diana have a complicated relationship with secrecy and revelation. (Earl Spencer's apparent failure to say goodbye to Hello magazine in recent years lends further credibility to this popular excuse.)

Yet Morton has opted for a more noble apologia. In an interview with ITV's Richard & Judy yesterday, he explained: "I've got a responsibility to people out there who want to understand Diana." This, then, is public service publishing. And yet so many of the public find reading a chore. The British government was forced this very week to launch an anti-illiteracy drive. How long before Morton feels that it is his responsibility to release the tapes to an American television news show or to authorise an audio-book version of the princess's words?

THE author's second line of defence raises the wider and more complex matter of commercial exploitation of tragedy. The writer clearly feels that he is being used as a lightning conductor for a general storm of morbid money-making. Also in conversation with Richard & Judy, he complained: "Lord Deedes has written a book! The BBC have released a video! ITN have released a video!" In other words, Morton is no more or less immoral than three ancient media institutions.

In fact, Lord Deedes has written only an 800-word preface for a collection of Daily Telegraph reports, all profits from which will go to the paper's own appeal for the victims of landmines. Such publishing arrangements contrast starkly with the deal by which an unspecified percentage of Morton's profits go to charity.

The BBC and ITV are also a bad comparison, although for different reasons. Both, it is true, are making only a donation from the sales of the video releases of their coverage. But the BBC spent millions from a hard-pressed budget in covering the story on the scale that its licence-payers were perceived to want. ITV suspended adverts during much of the coverage, thus reducing profits. There would be a good case for both broadcasters taking all the proceeds from the video sales to restore their income.

Yet the charge of making cash from catastrophes is more complicated than it might at first appear. In an unusual case of a pop star setting the highest moral standards, Elton John established early on the model of altruism by closing his pockets to any proceeds from the sale of his Diana song. Andrew Morton has now stuck a flag of equal size and prominence in the bogs of the moral low ground.

Morton, however, is right to suggest that there are fascinating shades of commerce between those two positions. Florists — many of whom will be able to retire earlier than planned to tend their rose gardens as a result of the bouquet-mania of September — have been under curiously little pressure to pledge their windfall to good causes. London hotels had their busiest September in history as a result of the funeral, yet the Hilton and Holiday Inn profits are subject to no opprobrium.

Long before the events of the last month, it's clear that public tragedy has built and furnished many fine private houses. Books, television programmes and films on two world wars, the Holocaust, Aberfan, Hillsborough and Dunblane have been sold around the world to the financial benefit of their creators.

Andrew Morton is right to say that there is nothing new in turning death to credit. But this defence cannot protect him because he is also guilty of a novel immorality in deciding that promises of confidentiality are not posthumous.

I'd be tempted to release the full tapes of our past interviews but, unfortunately, he was clever enough to tell identical lies on and off the record.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

The beauty that was Lebanon could be lost for ever

Commentary

Martin Woollacott

THE wind gusting across the golden void at the heart of Beirut lifts up the dust and sprinkles it over the enormous mole that rises in the sea beyond what used to be the shoreline. The mole is the spoil heap of old Beirut — the bricks, roofs, beams, joists, marble floors, cornices, tiles, fireplaces, shutters; the plaster, concrete, stones, steel, and glass of thousands of buildings. The middle of Beirut has been pulverised and dumped in the sea. According to opinion, it is either a brilliant new start for a centre war-damaged beyond repair, or the wanton destruction of an area of huge historical *and social* importance that could and should have been restored. What remains on the vast parade ground is a couple of hundred isolated structures. There are some churches and mosques, some offices and institutional buildings, and a few whole streets, mainly around the Place de l'Etoile, where the Lebanese parliament building stands. The rest is a blank sheet on which Lebanon, for good or ill, is supposed to write its future. This *extraordinary* and ruthless scheme, of which the Lebanese prime minister, Rafik Hariri, contractor tycoon turned politician, is the author, has become the focus of an argument about urbanism, architecture, and landscape that goes far beyond the aesthetic. It is not too much to say that the beauty of Beirut and of Lebanon, real or alleged, lost or restored, is the *critical* element in the country's survival.

Beautiful Lebanon! The attractions of this country have been sung so often that many have stopped looking to see whether they are still there. In truth, Lebanon is ugly. Its coastline is encrusted with cheap, ill designed concrete buildings, its mountain slopes are violated by urban sprawl, its forests have shrunk to almost nothing, its villages are mainly swollen, charmless mini-towns, its cities are jungles in which every new building aggresses another. Every view has been pre-empted, every prospect privatised. It is a landscape of greed and stupidity, only a little redeemed by a certain liveliness, fecundity and warmth among the people. The truly amazing thing is that in this ruined place the Lebanese believe that they can revive what was before. That tourists will come to drive along roads marred by junky strip development, to swim in seas full of sewage, to muse over Roman ruins flanked by rubbish heaps. That businessmen and rich foreigners will return in the old numbers to a capital whose stylish avenues, pleasant public spaces and old-fashioned restaurants and hotels have almost all disappeared or been transformed for the worse, and whose few remaining older buildings are being knocked down every day. War *did much of this.* Much of the built environment was damaged or destroyed. But, paradoxically, a shoddy, unregulated development carried on, in parallel with the fighting. New apartments, houses and offices for a middle class fleeing to safer, once rural areas, were thrown up. Shanty towns doubled and tripled for the great numbers of poor refugees. When the fighting, except for that against the Israelis in the south, stopped, this ravenous "development" continued, now able to loot the newly safe spaces of the capital and to seize the last remaining points of beauty in the countryside. The Lebanese sociologist Samir Khalaf has described the process in which bullet and shell violated the sense of safety and protection associated with home and neighbourhood. The Lebanese became "homeless in their own home". After the war, "the environment becomes an acessible surrogate target on which to vent their wrath ... what counts is that the unconditional acess to land must satisfy two overriding claims: the insatiable appetite for profit among the bourgeoisie and the vengeful feeling of entitlement to unearned privileges among the disenfranchised.

Lebanon became an extreme example of the economy *that functions by destroying* beauty, and by the continuous sale and re-sale of an ever shrinking stock of ever more only relatively pleasant or secure space. It is a truism that when this kind of development dominates, the sense of community has been lost — not only the tenuous inter-confessional community of the old Lebanon but that within confessional groups, and the community, of those living now and the generations before and to come. If these were the very failings which, along with the pressures created by the Arab-Israeli conflict, pushed Lebanon into 17 years of fighting, it might be said that this kind of development now is a continuation of war by other means. It is a war on the spaces and places that a coherent and peaceful society needs.

The chaotic destruction of the best of what is left in central Beirut goes on

The question of whether the re-development initiated by Rafik Hariri represents a corrective to these tendencies or is, at bottom, no more than a grandiose version of the same forces, is not a simple one. Hariri, a billionaire builder who made his money in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf and who has become the most powerful leader modern Lebanon has ever had, undoubtedly has the good of his country at heart. He is a philanthropist who has, for instance, personally financed thousands of Lebanese students, but he is also still a businessman. Questions about the legitimacy of combining business and politics aside, his critics see three major problems in his policies. First, his vision of Leba*non is a contractor's dream of* new highways, bridges, public buildings, and corporate towers, concentrating on the physical at the expense of other objectives. Secondly, he has bent the constitutional and legal framework in order to achieve his radical ends, and he makes no distinction, his critics say, between the public and the private. Also, in his concentration on physical renewal, he has neglected the dangerous tensions present in Lebanon, and, in particular, the alienation of the Maronite Christian community. Thirdly, coming from years of work in Saudi Arabia, where cost was no object, he does not understand how limited Lebanon's resources are, with the result that the country's debt threatens to pass its ability to pay, particularly if there is a fall in the what many believe is the over-valued Lebanese currency.

If the control exercised in central Beirut were matched by an equally strong hand on development elsewhere that would be a compensation. But alongside Hariri's streamlined quasi-govermental development, which is at least planned and well made, the chaotic destruction of the best of what is left in Lebanon, including the older buildings in the areas around central Beirut, goes on. This is more than a case of developers having influence in government. They *are* the government. The result is that Lebanon is becoming a country where private space can still be beautiful, but when you go out, as the distinguished architect Asem Salaam says, "it is like receiving a blow in the face". Lebanon's beauty, interpreted in a comprehensive way to mean its hills, orchards, and shores, its buildings, its food, its fashion, its social style and wit, is all that it has. As Khalaf writes: "The country has little else to sustain its vulnerable existence." The danger that Lebanon may finally lose that beauty is all too clear.

A party heading for the rocks

Ian Gilmour believes the Conservative Party must learn the lessons of its 1945 defeat, after which it adopted the One Nation policies that brought it into alignment with the political mainstream

Winston Churchill rallied defeated Tories after 1945 – but he was much more popular than William Hague

BEFORE the General Election, some Conservative MPs cheered themselves with the thought that a period in opposition might do the party good. A noisy handful had acted like an opposition for some time and their actions helped bring about the reality. Once there, they have found the situation less delightful than they had hoped. The latest thought to comfort the party's restless spirits is that they would benefit from a second change of leader within six months.

The impression that some Tories are thinking of ejecting a pilot who has only just started examining the controls shows how desperate things have become. The party faced a membership crisis even before the landslide defeat; its sources of domestic funding were drying up and its divisions made the Labour Party of the early 80s look like a model of efficient teamwork. When they elected Michael Foot in 1981 those Labour MPs that were not already set on defection from the party, knew that at least they had a leader who enjoyed their general respect and affection. By contrast, the inexperienced Mr Hague has to generate those feelings through a period in which almost everything he does will be criticised: and yet there is so much for him to do.

Will the Conservative Party simply disintegrate *under* these multiple blows? Although it has always bounced back before, the chief precedent in the democratic era — 1945 — shows how difficult things will be this time. At *that time the* Conservative leadership contained Churchill and Eden, the two most popular politicians in the country. Not even the most fervent admirers of Messrs Hague, Howard and Lilley *would put them* in that class. Much of what the Attlee government did was popular, but a Conservative Opposition already united was given a tempting target for counter-attack by Labour's ill conceived *nationalisation* programme. Whatever the rest of the world might think, Europe continues to be the key issue for today's Conservatives. With the Conservative party still hobbled by this ideological *self-indulgence*, "New" Labour will have to work very hard to produce a policy against which the Opposition can co-operate even for the length of one of Mr Hague's away-days.

Yet the example of 1945 still provides a useful lesson. In the years after that defeat the Conservative Party slowly realigned itself with the electorate. The blame attached to the party for the troubles of the 1930s had been (and continue to be) exaggerated, but the leadership just accepted this mood as a fact and got on with the job of rebuilding lost confidence. By contrast on May 1 the voters were largely right to blame the Conservatives for the mismanagement of 18 years. So, if the party is to have a good chance of reviving, the leadership has to look for the real reasons for the defeat, not clutch at superficial excuses. Instead of continuing the current drift it must quickly re-think its basic attitude, while its shrinking band of supporters is still too numb to notice what is happening.

Some ambitious Conservative politicians look abroad for inspiration — to the achievements of the Asian "Tiger" economies or the wisdom of Mr Newt Gingrich. This would end up with the Tories drowning in their own "clear blue water". Even before the recent setbacks for these two idols it was obvious that Tories should keep their gaze nearer home — *on the* examples provided by comparable European countries, and on the history of their own party.

The phrase "One Nation" has been re-defined several times in recent years. According to Baroness Thatcher, One Nation Conservatives are "No Nation Conservatives", and Michael Howard has made his usual thoughtful contribution by suggesting that we should start talking *about* "One British Nation" Conservatism. The oddest intervention in the debate came from Stephen Dorrell, who averred that Mrs Thatcher herself was a One Nation Conservative. As a tactic the statement predictably backfired, but at least it proved how urgent was the task of moderates to restore some clarity.

The governments of Margaret Thatcher and John Major departed from the One Nation approach in at least two crucial respects: by turning the gap between the rich and the poor into a gulf, and by creating high unemployment, which affected some areas far more than others. "One Nation" politics is not about equality, nor does it demand that all unemployment should be eradicated. But no one can claim to have the interests of the nation at heart while fostering ever wider disunion among its citizens. During the 1980s and in 1992 the Conservative Party escaped the electoral consequences of its actions because the opposition was itself divided. Once the Labour Party created the impression that it was an electable alternative, the voters seized the chance. The improved economic outlook made no difference to the result, not just because the public knew that it had largely come about by accident, but, more important, because the "feel-good factor" on its own is seldom enough to secure the return of any government. Similarly, although some measures of the "Thatcherite" years (notably Jim Prior's union reforms) were clearly right and necessary, any promise in Britain's current position has arisen in spite, not because, of right-wing dogma.

During the general-election *campaign John Major seemed* to realise that this time the party could not win by simply appealing to the contented minority. He made one or two speeches that dragged in the slogan One Nation. The tactic was quickly dropped, however, for the good reason that no one could take it seriously while the party remained committed to divisive policies. Instead, Tony Blair was allowed to exploit the popularity of One Nation politics — *not* because his re-fashioned party was really in the tradition of Disraeli and Macleod, but because it was much closer to that tradition than the Conservatives.

On May 1 the voters were largely right to blame the Conservatives for the mismanagement of 18 years

So if the Conservative Party were *to re-adopt* One Nation policies, the potential electoral dividends are clear. To the right-wing argument that it would mean competing with "New" Labour in the same political territory, the *obvious answer* would be that the Conservatives offered the real thing and not an off-the-peg imitation. If "New" Labour is to lose in the reasonably near future, it will fall on the issues of compe*tence and* arrogance, not ideology — the great majority in Blair's party now regard ideology with the derision Conservatives felt in wiser days. One chance — bad for the country perhaps, but potentially good for the Opposition — is "New" Labour's insistence on defending a rate of tax on higher incomes, which, when it was proposed, even Mrs Thatcher thought too low. Leaving aside its impli*cations for social justice, the* reliance on higher interest rates to restrain demand threatens exports and jobs far more than the Social Chapter. But at present the Conservatives have no alternative policy on higher incomes. The *idea that they could start talk*ing about a rise in direct taxation is plainly chimerical, but they could at least stop promising future cuts, and explain their reasoning. This is probably the party's best chance of provoking a constructive debate in the immediate future, and would signal its readiness to creep back into the real world. On this front, Gordon Brown was well advised to promise a return to full employment only at some unspecified time in the next century.

On the constitution, the present leadership should acknowledge that the party has lost the debate and try to make the best of the changed situation. If there is a danger that devolution might be only the prelude to separatism, the Conservatives should realise that their misrule after 1979 has done more than anything else to to inspire this kind of thinking. Once the party stops being a vehicle for divisive dogma many Scots and Welsh feel less frightened of a continuing connection with Westminster, so giving up their extremism in other spheres would help the Conservatives to retreat from their rigid and deeply unpopular line on constitutional matters.

Unless the party begins to work along these lines, its chances of regaining power will be slim. Any alternative scenario would leave it waiting for a Blairite disaster which might never come — and taking for granted that the Liberal Democrats will *never achieve a complete* breakthrough despite the growing possibility of PR. Even when the Conservative Party held power (and handsomely rewarded its friends), its membership shrank. All the present talk of re-shaping *party institutions will come* to nothing if few join the party; and since Conservative actions and pronouncements gave every encouragement to extreme right-wingers to enrol during the 18 years, a further lunge towards *laissez-faire* economics and negativism on Europe would bring in few recruits. The other possibility suggested by "New" Labour's success — that people will flock to the Conservative banner because of a charismatic leader — is ruled out while Mr Hague has to spend all his time on the defensive, and without positive new policies this situation is unlikely to change, whatever his personal qualities might turn out to be.

The best explanation for the Conservative success story since 1832 remains that the party has acted as a brake on the prevailing political tendency, opposing individualism during the 19th century and standing out against "collectivism" in this one. This was the best defence of Thatcherism the right had to offer. That the party should now again adjust its position must be the conclusion of any sane appraisement of the last general election. The Conservative Party has exhibited few symptoms of sanity in recent years. Whatever Mr Hague himself might personally believe — and at present the electorate is not interested enough to guess — he is faced with an intractable difficulty. The party can regain its popularity only by shifting to the centre, but that obvious step *is seemingly ruled out by the* majority of his MPs being far too right-wing to allow such a sensible development. If they were not, they would not have chosen him instead of Kenneth Clarke. The most depressing contrast with 1945 is *that most of the young mem*bers of the party at that time had learnt the right lessons from the past, whereas if the present bunch think at all about the days before 1975 they reach for their guns.

If PR is adopted, the British *political landscape will be* transformed. Almost the only certainty is that under PR an extreme right-wing party would quickly become a miserable irrelevance. Yet the present leadership should realise that doomsday could arrive before PR; a Conservative Party without the will to change will enter the next election without the means to pay for its lost deposits. One Nation politicians have been on the back foot for so many years that they have not done enough thinking out how their tradition can be brought up to date. They must now start the work in earnest, and try to save their party from itself. Only then will the Conservative Party be able to face the future with confidence instead of with a sneer and a snarl.

This week's essayist, Ian Gilmour (Lord Gilmour) was Conservative Defence Secretary in 1974 and Lord Privy Seal 1979-81. His book with Mark Garnett, Whatever Happened To The Tories, (Fourth Estate) was published this week

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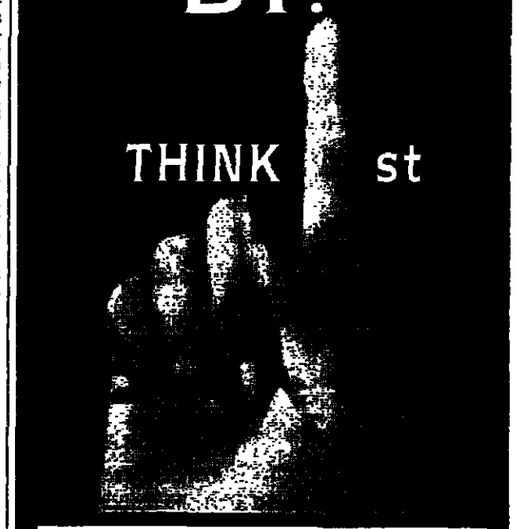

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The Guardian Saturday October 4 1997

The curse of Old Nick

Reputations

'What is this place for?' Nick Ridley famously asked of the DTI. Margaret Beckett must now find the answer for Labour. SIMON BEAVIS reports. Photograph: DON McPHEE

MARGARET Beckett had nothing to do with the gentrification of number 1 Victoria Street, the moderately imposing block which houses the Department of Trade and Industry.

Its relative grandeur befits one of Whitehall's biggest departments, staffed by nearly 7,000 civil servants and covering a vast and unwieldy range of subjects. That it is now the office of Labour's first Trade and Industry Secretary for 18 years seems also appropriate. Labour has always taken the DTI seriously.

The party may be moving away from its industrial roots, but there is no doubt that New Labour has a powerful commitment to industry's cause. Privatisation may have changed forever the way government relates to industry. Intervention may be out and power be ceded to the regulators. But with Britain still struggling to hold its own in the global market-place, there is work to be done for a pro-industrial party — particularly one that boasts a new relationship with business.

Instead, Mrs Beckett has faced a tide of questions about her department. She has been accused of presiding over a department whose power is being leached away; of failing to organise appropriately the portfolios of her ministers; and of being tardy in giving guidance on competition policy, most notably over the recent failed attempt by Safeways and Asda to merge and, before that, over P&O and Stena.

Mrs Beckett — a cautious and unflashy politician — has been too shrewd to pay much attention to the criticism. For every critic accusing her of prevarication, there is a supporter who admires her determination to do things her way and in her own time.

That a good deal of the criticism has come from her shadow, John Redwood, a lonely opposition voice on an otherwise somnambulent Tory front bench, may mean that she feels she has little need to worry unduly.

But the fact that similar attacks are coming from the City must be causing some concern, because although it is by nature wary of meddling with markets, New Labour understands the need for the City's support.

The criticism has moved beyond conventional anti-Labour whispering. Fundamental questions are being asked about the DTI under Labour, similar to the first question asked by the late Nicholas Ridley.

Arriving on his first day, Mr Ridley looked at the building, and bluntly asked: "What is this place for?" Peter Lilley replaced him and went as close as anyone to talking about shutting it down.

The power of the DTI has always waxed and waned, but never more wildly than since Labour was last in power. In the Thatcher years, the bible was market forces, the credo was the relative irrelevance of manufacturing. It reduced the department to a shambles.

The difference came with Michael Heseltine. During the Thatcher years he argued that the DTI should be transformed into a strategic department with sufficient power to counterbalance the overweaning Treasury.

After orchestrating the dumping of Mrs Thatcher he put his ideas to work. Reflecting his own particular brand of political vanity, he adopted the ancient and more portentous title of President of the Board of Trade.

During his time there were structural changes, too. In came the old Energy department, out went swaths of City regulation to the Treasury.

But there were more significant Heseltine innovations. He reinstated the industrial-sector desks and launched a competitiveness unit which allowed him full range across Whitehall. He published a yearly white paper on competitiveness, which, although often anodyne, at least commanded attention.

Not surprisingly, he took the competitiveness unit with him to the Cabinet office when he became Deputy Prime Minister.

His departure, insiders attest, ushered in another "miserable" period for the DTI. His successor, Ian Lang, clung to the title of President of the Board of Trade rather as he clung to the job — that is, half-heartedly.

"Frankly, Ian Lang wasn't interested," is how one source described the ensuing malaise, which lasted until May's victory brought Mrs Beckett to office.

Among DTI civil servants, the relief at Labour's victory was palpable — at last, a government with an appetite for reform. The Treasury was quick off the mark, with independence for the Bank of England and a windfall-tax Budget. John Prescott's super-ministry, too, lost little time making its presence felt.

But there have been no big reforms at the DTI, and the new President of the Board of Trade — she, too, uses the title — has been content to keep a low profile.

Critics have interpreted this as weakness. Supporters say it reflects a politician more interested in managing her department than in grabbing headlines. But it has still left observers wondering what, in New Labour speak, is "the project".

The truth lies somewhere in between. The DTI is an organisational nightmare, made up of vertically structured units spanning diverse subjects which studiously avoid each other. "Even in the energy command, people from gas didn't talk to people from coal or nuclear," says one senior insider. Industry minister John Battle has started to talk about teaching officials "joined-up thinking".

OFFICIALS were also unprepared for the new administration. As one source put it: "They'd been used to having nothing more than the market forces argument to depend on." Another said: "There were three strands. Those officials locked in the past, those pleased to be free to think again and those who said, if we can think again why can't we tax again?"

Ministers — some still running to catch up with Tony Blair's broad-brush reforms — have presented problems, too. "DTI Ministers are working with the market but want to be different to the Tories they replaced. They want different values but don't yet know what they are."

It has led to a tricky handover at the DTI, which operates in the shadow but with the patronage of Gordon Brown's Treasury. Both have units looking at boosting industry's performance. But friends insist that Mrs Beckett and Mr Brown will not get in each other's way: they are close allies.

She is using the newly established future unit and Mr Brown's public spending review to do some strategic thinking about the DTI.

Her agenda includes boosting the performance of business while persuading firms to accept the principle of fairness at work. She is responsible for the minimum wage and the Social Chapter opt-in, as well as competitiveness. It is something of a poisoned chalice.

But more testing could be the completion of the Tory plan to liberalise the gas and electricity markets. She has promised to deliver a fair deal for all consumers.

The forthcoming competition bill and the ongoing review of utility regulation will be severe early indicators of her commitment to protect consumers — and whether she can do what none of her predecessors have mangaged: to make sure the producer interests represented at the DTI do not automatically triumph.

Some observers are surprised that Labour did not set up a powerful Consumer Affairs Ministry to fight this battle, rather than relying on the awkwardly constructed DTI to do the job.

So long as Labour is happy with the current structure, Mrs Beckett appears content she can find an answer to Mr Ridley's question within the confines of the DTI.

In the meantime her critics remain unconvinced. As one put it: "Heseltine was successful mainly because he came with a very clear idea of what he wanted to do, whereas I am not sure Beckett does, and Lang certainly never did."

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Clever budget, but a shame about the nationalists

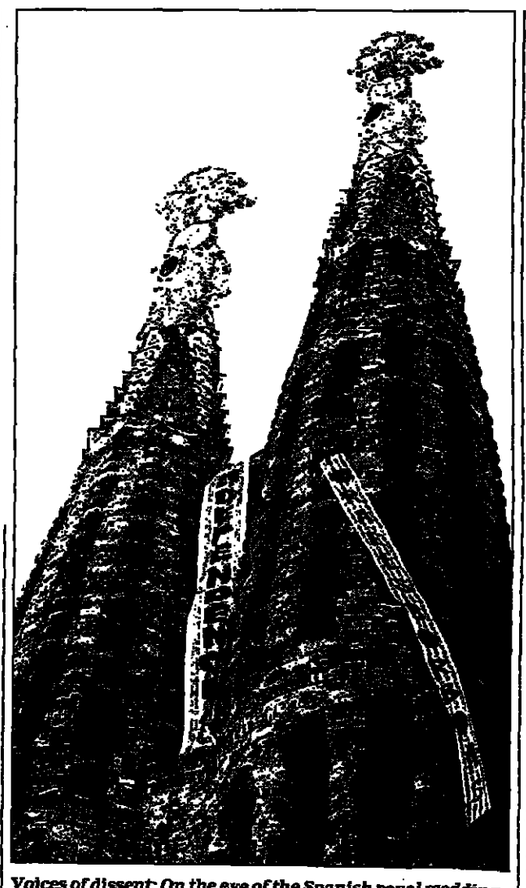
Euro Eye

José Aznar has pulled off an economic coup, but he isn't out of the woods, writes ADELA GOOCH from Madrid

SPAIN'S conservative prime minister, José Maria Aznar, could be forgiven for looking a little smug when his draft budget for 1998 was presented to parliament this week. After all, his Popular Party has succeeded in putting the economy firmly on course for Europe's single currency, confounding the sceptics.

To some, he also looked like a politican heading for the hustings. The budget fuelled speculation that Mr Aznar, who formed a minority government in May last year, might seek to capitalise on his success and call a snap election if Spain's participation in monetary union is confirmed. At present, he relies on support in parliament from Basque, Catalan and Canary Island nationalists.

The Basques are already saying they won't vote for the budget because the government has refused to hand over responsibility for funds allocated to training schemes to the regional authority. The Catalans, who provide the bulk of Mr Aznar's support, only guarantee backing until Spain's qualification for the single currency is assured. A regional election is due in Catalonia next year and the Catalan nationalist Convergencia i Unio coalition may seek to distance itself from Mr Aznar well in advance. Could Catalan regional president Jordi Pujol find himself vying with the Spanish premier to call an election first?



Voices of dissent: On the eve of the Spanish royal wedding, Catalan banners calling for independence hang from the Gaudi cathedral in Barcelona PHOTOGRAPH: GUSTAU NACARINO

Ministers insist they'll see their four-year term through. But the budget suggests otherwise. The government is set to bring the deficit down to 3 per cent this year, in line with monetary union targets, and 2.4 per cent next year. This year's growth rate is put at 3.2 per cent and next year's at 3.4 per cent. Inflation is at its lowest since the sixties, with a 2.2 per cent target for 1997 and 2.1 per cent in 1998. Interest rates have fallen from 7.25 per cent, when the government came to power, to 5.25 per cent, which has made it much easier to pay off debt and reduced the need for cuts. Unemployment remains high, but is falling.

This has enabled Mr Aznar to authorise a modest rise in public spending of 3.2 per cent, and to delay reforms that are vital to the country's long term economic well-being, but which would be unpopular, in the short term at least.

He has made an effort to placate civil servants and pensioners, whose income will keep pace with inflation and who are a key voting sector. Spending on health and education will increase a little. There is no hint, however, of serious tax reform, nor of a much-needed re-working of land laws. The pension system and labour laws have received some attention, but not enough.

Critics argue that Spain's economy is still hidebound by the centralised nationalisation put in place by General Franco. They say the present rosy economic situation makes it an ideal time to tackle reforms. Without them, the country could be in trouble once inside monetary union. The Bank of Spain, meanwhile, warns that inflation could go up, sparked by consumer spending, higher wages and some rises in government service taxes.

But Mr Aznar's finance ministers claim they have plenty of time and that it has been their job, initially, to change Spaniards' attitude to the economy and prove that reform need not lead to social unrest. The implied comparison with Alain Juppé's unsuccessful tactics in France is clear, coupled with fears that the PP might suffer an election defeat if it goes too far too quickly.

"People now really understand that curbing the deficit and keeping inflation down is important. That is quite an achievement," says Cristobal Montoro, junior minister in charge of economic policy. "I'm delighted that an essentially restrictive budget like this one should be seen as electoral," he adds. "But frankly I'm also very surprised."

هكذا من الاصل

Piper calls new tune for Rosyth

WATER jets from tug boats and skirling pipes yesterday greeted the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown (right), as he unveiled a regeneration project promising up to 4,000 jobs on and around the site of the former Rosyth naval base in his Dunfermline constituency.

The £50 million scheme, christened Rosyth 2000, envisages a new commercial port, factories, shops, offices and a pub.

All that remains of the Royal Navy — which founded the base in 1903 to provide back-up for Atlantic convoys and later sent ships to fight against General Galtieri in the Falklands and Saddam Hussein in the Gulf war — will be some navy stores on the site, which will be divided into four "campuses".

Mr Brown predicted the complex to be created at the 175-acre site could make it "the skills capital of Britain". He added that other firms would swiftly join the one company definitely establishing itself at Rosyth.

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS BACON

Analysts put £500m price tag on Barclays' investment banking arm

Fears for jobs in BZW sale

Julia Finch

MORE than 3,500 staff at Barclays' investment banking arm, BZW, were last night facing an uncertain future as the bank confirmed it is pulling out of large parts of its City banking activities.

It is to sell its equities and corporate finance divisions and said it hoped to find a buyer "within a few months". Analysts said that the sale could raise £500 million, though the final price could be affected by intense speculation that NatWest Bank is looking to sell similar operations.

Barclays' chief executive, Martin Taylor, who summoned the staff to a 7.30am meeting, admitted there could be substantial job losses if the eventual buyer only wanted the frontline staff. He said part of the sale proceeds were likely to be earmarked to pay for redundancies and restructuring.

BZW employs 7,500 staff worldwide and has 3,500 back-office staff. Half of those are in the UK at BZW's Canary Wharf headquarters. The bank has yet to decide which staff will be retained by Barclays.

Bill Harrison, chief executive of BZW, who joined the bank last Autumn, resigned as the sale was announced. He said he had joined to run the entire group and that role no longer existed. He is expected to receive a pay-off which could top £5 million.

Speculation had been mounting for months that Barclays was considering a BZW sell-off, but the bank has always denied it. Yesterday Mr Taylor said Barclays had not done a U-turn, but had "come to a fork". He added that in profits terms, he was only unloading two-sevenths of the BZW business.

But analysts said the apparent change of heart had damaged Mr Taylor's reputation. "It's admitting he can't sort it out," said Tim Clarke, an analyst at Nikko Securities.

As the sell-off rumours intensified this week, Barclays share price rose, but yesterday it retreated hastily, closing down 54.5p at 1692.5p, as Barclays revealed it did not have a buyer for BZW and has not held any serious talks with potential buyers.

One analyst said the price fall was due to lack of hard information. "There is uncertainty over the timing of any deal or how it will be constructed." Mr Taylor said he had announced the sale before finding a buyer so that staff and clients could be informed.

Formed in 1985, BZW was the largest investment bank still in British hands following the sale of other houses such as S G Warburg and Kleinwort Benson to Swiss and German buyers. But BZW has not made the returns that Barclays' chiefs had hoped for.

Yesterday Mr Taylor said that to enable BZW to compete effectively on a global basis would have required huge investment and even then the returns were uncertain.

Dutch bank ING, Commerzbank of Germany and Paribas of France are all potential buyers of the Barclays units. Other possible buyers, analysts said, could be Crédit Suisse First Boston or US banking giant Travelers, which last week announced it was buying rival Salomons for $9 billion (£6 billion).

● Shares of Paine Webber, the fourth-biggest US securities firm, last night surged up to 11 per cent in New York amid speculation the firm would be acquired.

Paine Webber shares were up because of "speculation it can't stand alone forever", Paul Foster, senior options strategist at Mercury Trading in Chicago, said. Traders said Goldman Sachs was the most common name mentioned as a possible buyer.

Committee 'should vet boardroom behaviour'

THE Government should set up a permanent and independent organisation to review standards of boardroom behaviour and pay, the investment advice organisation PIRC said yesterday, *writes Roger Cowe.*

In a strong attack on the latest attempt by the business establishment to loosen the regulation of boardroom practice, PIRC managing director Anne Simpson said self-appointed ad hoc committees were not a satisfactory way of protecting the public interest.

She said the aim of a standing commitee would be to maintain a permanent watch on corporate governance issues, with full accountability to Parliament through Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade.

"Shareholders do not have any use for bland statements in the report and accounts. They need clarity, rigour and full disclosure," Ms Simpson said.

Responding to the preliminary report of the Hampel committee on corporate governance, PIRC rejected the committee's suggestion that general principles should replace specific requirements. PIRC also called for institutional shareholders to recognise a duty to vote at annual meetings and on remuneration committee reports.

Attila the Brum to bow out with record golden handshake

A BLUNT and outspoken Midlander — the so-called "Attila the Brum" of the banking world — yesterday emerged as the man heading for Britain's biggest golden handshake, *writes Lisa Buckingham.*

Bill Harrison (pictured), a workaholic 48-year-old, this week signed the death knell on his own hugely remunerative job when, as a main board director of Barclays Bank, he agreed that its investment banking operation, BZW, should be reshaped and sold off.

One of his first tasks as chief executive of BZW — after being appointed this time last year — was to remove Donald Brydon, the operation's deputy and one of the City's favoured fathers.

Described as a "human dynamo, robust and rebellious," Mr Harrison, who has a masters degree in monetary economics from the London School of Economics, joined BZW from Robert Fleming, the investment banking group. Before than he worked as head of European investments at Lehman Brothers. He began his career at Manufacturers Hanover, then worked in the oil industry before becoming a member of the corporate finance team at J Henry Schroder Wagg.

Soon after he joined BZW his generous pay and perks package — estimated to be worth around £6 million over two years — was criticised by shareholders but the company was seen as being in such trouble that shareholders accepted they had to pay a high price to sort it out.

Colleagues regard him as a man who can inspire employees as well as terrorising opponents. One associate said he has a "raw energy" unusual even in the City.

Mr Harrison, married with two children, has joked that time spent at home is a "wasted marketing opportunity" and stated yesterday that work was his life and he would waste no time in trying to climb back on the merry-go-round once the BZW wooden horse had moved on.

Saturday Notebook

Don't write off British banking

Mark Milner

A CONUNDRUM. London is one of the world's leading financial centres — but British banks are unable to match its success on the global stage.

Yesterday it was the turn of Barclays to abandon ambitions to become a global player. NatWest effectively called it a day a couple of months ago, though it stopped short of formal confirmation. Lloyds, once the smallest of the big four high-street banks, never tried — opting to stick to the business it knew best and prospering accordingly.

Only HSBC — originally out of Hong Kong but a member of the traditional British high street quartet by virtue of its ownership of Midland — still stands toe-to-toe with the US banks and the ambitious Europeans.

Nor have the City's merchant banks fared much better. Most of those still competing in the financial world's premier league are doing so under foreign ownership. Warburg appears to have found a happy home with Swiss Bank, Morgan Grenfell and Kleinwort Benson are owned by Germany's Deutsche and Dresdner banks. Barings fell to the Netherland's ING in shaming circumstances.

But are the British such banking failures?

The ungenerous would say "yes", though all but the most rabid critics would add the rider that they are no worse than many of their foreign counterparts.

It is in the nature of banks to be famous for losing money. Think back no further than all that lending in South America. Losses like those inevitably grab the headlines.

The NatWest/Barclays sagas, however, are not matters of loans that went sour — though NatWest did find a £90 million black hole at NatWest Markets a few months ahead of its restructuring.

As with Macbeth, it is a question of "vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself and falls on the other."

Both NatWest and Barclays wanted to be global players. According to conventional banking wisdom that meant having a strong investment banking arm to service corporate clients round the world.

RETAIL customers in Brighton, for example, do not expect to find a NatWest cash dispenser on the main street in Bogota, but international companies do not expect to be confined to one branch when borrowing money. They want banks to be able to raise money for them (through bond or share issues), advise on takeover bids, and trade foreign currency and interest rates round the world.

Barclays' and NatWest's failure to make a success of the dream owes something to history. When the financial services industry was revolutionised in the second half of the 1980s, the high street banks moved into areas such as stockbroking and merger and acquisition work. But most of the acquisitions were (relatively) small and the cultures vastly different. NatWest was perhaps the more obvious struggler of the two, but BZW, for all its success in some areas, never managed to build a top-ranked mergers and acquisitions division.

The American experience was different. US rules ensured the separation of investment and commercial banks, which might have been thought a handicap. But, helped by the size of the US economy, it helped create an investment banking community — centred on New York — which had the kind of critical mass which escaped both Britain's merchant banks and the high street banks once the latter moved into investment banking.

The Brits found themselves outgunned. What has happened over the last two months is that Barclays and NatWest have conceded that, to be competitive, they would have to keep pouring money into the investment banking business without seeing the sorts of returns needed to justify either the investment or the management time.

There may also have been a frustration among top managers that while, especially at BZW, investment banking did from time to time make money, a big slice had to be paid out in staff bonuses. The size of the severance payment for BZW chief executive Bill Harrison illustrates the cultural divide.

There are still the questions of why the British high street and investment banks did not get together in the first place to create the kind of criticial mass with which to take on the rest of the world, and why a number of European banks are still in the game when most of the Brits are out.

The answers overlap. It is at least arguable that the differing cultures of the two halves of British banking kept them apart.

BY THE time the old merchant banks recognised the need for allies, the commercial banks had alternative strategies, leaving the merchant banks to Continental Europeans with deep pockets and shareholders who were less demanding in terms of return on capital.

Nor could the commercial banks have forged alliances among themselves to create operations with the sheer bulk that would have commanded a place on the world stage. In the days before demutualisation brought the likes of the Halifax and the Abbey National into the banking sector, Britain's competition authorities would never have allowed it.

But it would be wrong to see the NatWest and Barclays — or even British banking as a whole — as utter failures. BZW wants to sell its equities and mergers-and-acquisitions operations, while NatWest would presumably not refuse a reasonable offer for the similar businesses it hived off into NatWest Markets.

Much remains. The two banks are still formidable players on a global scale in the foreign exchange markets, for example. Other British banks have carved out profitable niches in areas such as privatisation. That, however, is not global investment banking.

Still, banking fashions are like buses. There is always another one coming along. These days it's "bancassurance", the combination of retail banking and insurance. Does anyone have an insurance company up for sale? Perhaps Barclays' Martin Taylor or NatWest's Derek Wanless might like a call.

Round two of currency crisis for the Tigers

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

THE crisis of confidence in South-east Asian currencies returned yesterday as Indonesia's rupiah fell 9.3 per cent to a record low against the dollar and even the region's most robust currency, the Singapore dollar, sank to a 40-month low.

"We're on to the second phase of the currency crisis, we're expecting a lot more weakness in regional currencies," a western bank analyst in Singapore noted.

"Credit issues are going to dominate. People are going to be looking very carefully at what economic damage has been done as a result of the currency crisis so far. There is going to be massive dislocation with slow growth, high inflation, falling property prices and financial-sector credit risks. The price of that credit risk is going to drive currencies lower."

Indonesia's rupiah crashed under the pressure of demand for dollars among companies burdened by $55 billion (£34 billion) in foreign debt, much of it unhedged, and on speculation that this debt combined with a six-year high in interest rates may start to impact on the country's banks.

The Jakarta stock exchange reflected prevailing nervousness, falling 5.36 per cent before some late buying brought the loss over the day to 3.99 per cent. "Many groups have not hedged and therefore the losses they are taking are hideous, I think it will set some companies back two to three years," a corporate analyst in Jakarta said.

The top 15-20 of Indonesia's 260-plus banks are reckoned to control more than 80 per cent of banking sector assets, and rumours that some have already gone bankrupt blossomed yesterday into speculation that as many as 40 are on the verge of going bust.

In neighbouring Malaysia, the ringgit fell another 1.9 per cent yesterday to 3.3825 against the dollar. The Thai baht fell 0.9 per cent, the Philippine peso, after an early rise, dropped 0.76 per cent and the Singapore dollar lost 0.46 per cent.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.156	France 9.33	Italy 2,754	Singapore 2.43
Austria 19.62	Germany 2.7875	Malta 0.6160	South Africa 7.31
Belgium 57.40	Greece 442.75	Netherlands 3.1300	Spain 234.00
Canada 2.16	Hong Kong 12.13	New Zealand 2.44	Sweden 12.07
Cyprus 0.82	India 58.41	Norway 11.206	Switzerland 2.268
Denmark 10.698	Ireland 1.0800	Portugal 284.00	Turkey 271,940
Finland 8.44	Israel 5.65	Saudi Arabia 5.95	USA 1.5790

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

City running for rogue-dealer cover

Dan Atkinson reports on the first insurance policy on dealing losses

THE CITY'S first "rogue trader" insurance policy was launched yesterday, offering cover of up to quarter of a billion pounds in the event a star dealer turns out to have broken the bank. Three institutions have already asked for quotes and a further 12 are considered to be prospective clients.

Premiums could run into seven figures a year, an industry source said. But any firm hoping to cover itself against reckless gambling by employees will need to satisfy the insurer, SVB Syndicates, that internal controls are in place and that there is independent oversight of trading activities.

SVB said the policy covered commitments in excess of dealing limits, trading in unauthorised instruments and trading with unauthorised counter-parties. It added: "To avoid ordinary market risk losses, the policy does not cover the trader's activities within the scope of his or her delegated authority."

The policy covers trading in commodities, securities, futures, gilts and currencies. SVB, a Lloyd's agency that in the early 1980s wrote the first policy against computer crime, denied the policy would increase the "moral hazard" that leads to employees trading with their firm's money to boost their own bonuses without taking any risks themselves.

Because insured parties will pay the first part of their losses, a spokesman said, they will retain an interest in guarding against problems.

Rogue trading hit the headlines in early 1995, when Barings Bank was brought to its knees by the activities of Singapore-based trader Nick Leeson, who had run up £800 million losses. Since then, NatWest Bank has reported a £90 million loss from unauthorised dealing, and Morgan Grenfell faces possible losses of £400 million from unorthodox fund management.

Rupert Villiers of SVB said: "Before a bank takes a multi-million pound risk on a loan commitment, it may take days or weeks to ensure thorough review, proper security and that several pairs of eyes have to give it full consideration. The same risk can be committed by traders in a matter of minutes."

SVB said there were no plans to insure fellow Lloyd's insurance syndicates.

Striking IT rich on banks of Tyne

Computer wizardry helps poachers plug Geordie brain drain, says **Sarah Ryle**

WHEN two young investment bankers advertised in Newcastle's local press for computer whiz-kids they wanted the pick of the bunch — so they advertised a salary offering a 50 per cent-plus pay rise for some locals.

London-style wages in a city where it is possible to buy a three-bedroom house in a nice street for less than £50,000 did the trick.

Poaching was not really the word. The prey more or less leapt at the hunters, Strategic Systems Solutions, formed by two IT experts who met at the American investment bank Morgan Stanley.

One of the reasons SSS set up in Liverpool in 1995 then in Newcastle this year was the difficulty of holding on to staff in London.

The shortage of workers with the right skills in the investment banks' heartland led to serial poaching. SSS realised that banks' computer work did not have to be done in the City.

An experienced IT expert working at the London base of an international bank commands about £70,000. In Newcastle, the most experienced workers take home about £25,000.

By moving to SSS, senior staff added about 25 per cent to their wages and some junior staff doubled their pay.

Sunderland-based Nissan, which has lost 18 of its skilled operators to SSS, may feel the recruitment policy is a bit rich. Without the presence of Nissan in the North-east and investment by British Aerospace in the North-west, the pool that SSS tapped into would not have existed.

But Steve Bramwell, aged 34, and Mark Williams, aged 36, say they are not out to exploit a cheaper work force — although they pay less than the London average.

Mr Bramwell said: "Investment banks are not exactly used to thinking that they can get excellent IT work from Liverpool or Newcastle, so showing that we pay very well is an instant way for them to see we are a high-quality firm."

Mr Bramwell said: "Most people know that if they want to work for an investment bank they have to uproot their families, break their ties and move south. This is a way around that."

Tomkins pays £70.5m for Golden West

TOMKINS, the conglomerate whose products range from guns to buns encompassing Rank Hovis McDougall and Smith & Wesson, yesterday bought Golden West Foods — the company which makes the buns, ketchup and milkshakes for McDonald's — for £70.5 million, *writes Ian King.*

The cash deal comes six months after Tomkins paid £372 million for US car parts maker Stant Corporation.

Tomkins chairman Greg Hutchings said the acquisition of Golden West offered a "substantial and exciting" opportunity to expand its presence in food services. Golden West was operating in one of the fastest growing sectors in the food manufacturing market, while Tomkins was Britain's second biggest baker.

Golden West, based in Hertfordshire and employing almost 1,000 people in Britain, made pre-tax profits of £8 million last year on sales of £68.7 million. Its factories work 24 hours a day, every day except Christmas Day.

Tomkins shares eased 4p to 342½p on news of the deal.

Simoniz sold as Burmah stops waxing

THE usually staid world of car polish was shaken yesterday when Simoniz, one of the best-known names in the business, was sold by the oil group Burmah Castrol to Holt Lloyd, maker of the Holts range of car treatment products, for £7 million, *writes Ian King.*

Turtle Wax, the market leader, announced at the same time that its distribution agreement with Holt Lloyd would be terminated at the end of the year, ending a 30-year relationship.

Burmah, which recently slipped out of the FTSE 100 index, said the sale of Simoniz, which it bought in 1987, was part of its strategy of getting out of non-core businesses. It will suffer a one-off loss of £4 million on the sale.

Simoniz, which is based in Newquay, Cornwall, recorded sales of £14 million in 1996.

Holt Lloyd was bought for £80 million three years ago from the materials group Morgan Crucible by a management team which promised to float the company.

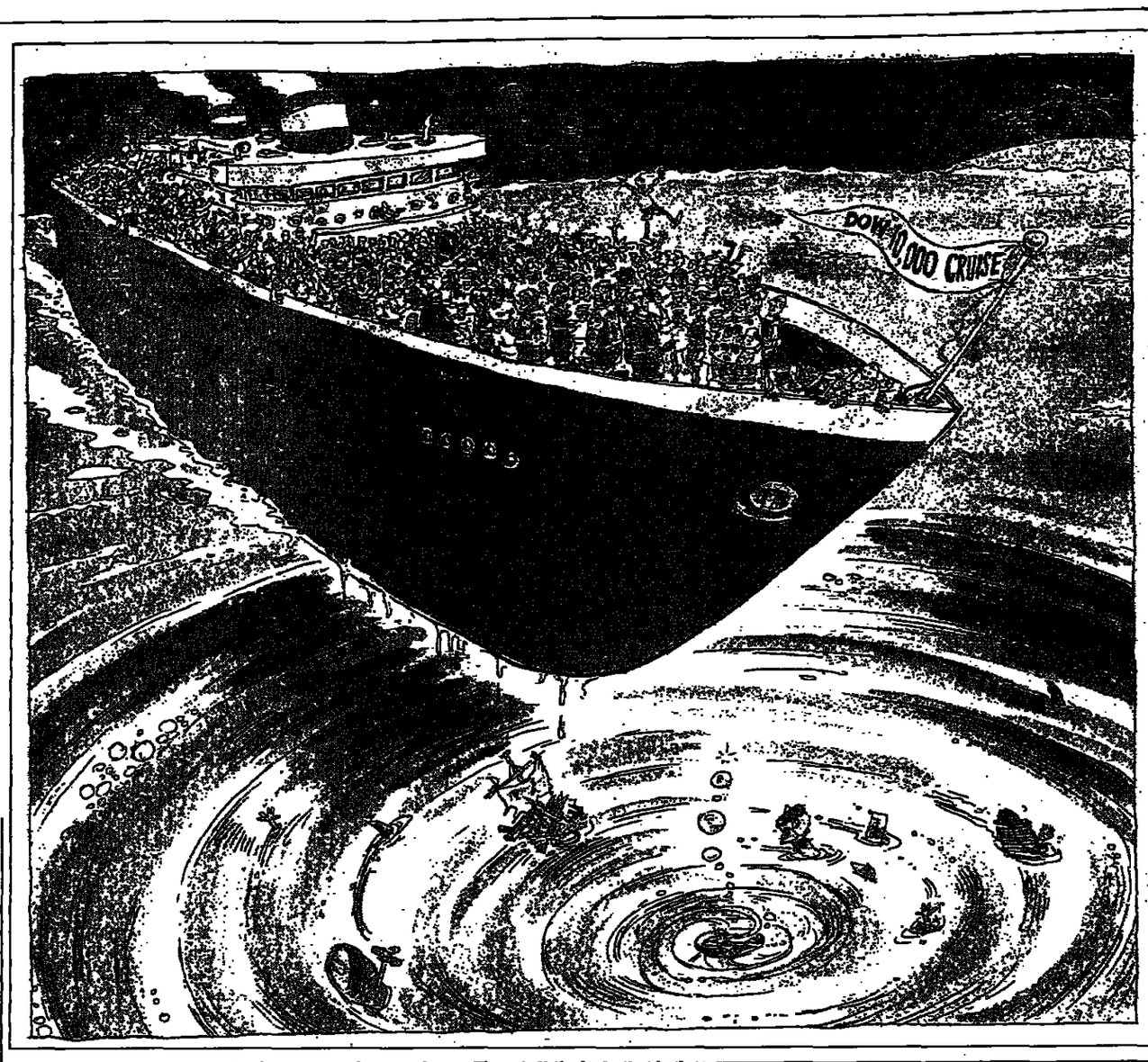
Second wave swamps Asian Tigers, page 11

A big question for Mrs Beckett, page 10

Finance Guardian

It's a mad, mad, world

Investors have never had it so good. Can it last, or will disaster hit? asks PAUL MURPHY



JOSEPH E Granville is all set. Bermuda shorts, box of cigars . . . Stocks are going up and he is planning a holiday. The man is an investment pundit who presents a hugely popular radio show in Kansas. According to his predictions, the Dow Jones Industrial Average — the key US stock market index, which charts the progress of America's biggest companies — will break through the 10,000 mark early in the New Year.

So Mr Granville has formed the Dow 10,000 club, and all the members are taking a celebratory three-day cruise on The Sovereign of the Seas (73,000 tons, 2,300 passengers). Lots of other stock market pundits will be on board, and for an extra $160 "tuition fee" on top of the basic $872-per-cabin cost, happy cruisers will be able to attend seminars fronted by speakers from an outfit known as The Personal Capitalist. And, according to a travel agent's flier, there is also the promise of Mr Granville himself giving "another one of his famous stock market lectures replete with all his newest recommendations."

Any investor who has followed Mr Granville's advice over the past 15 months or so should be able to afford the cruise. In July of last year, when the Dow Jones index stood at 5170, he told his followers to start buying shares. Then, in April of this year, with the Dow standing at 6315, the man told everyone to fill their boots. The Dow is going to 10,000 by next January, Mr Granville declared.

At the time he looked like another stock market quack in a country thick with quackish "investment gurus." The professionals — hard-headed Wall Street types who spend their days analysing every piece of information which might impact on share prices — were talking then of a stock market crash. They had listened to Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve and undisputed "master" of the world financial system, when he said that stock market investors were displaying "irrational exuberance." They were waiting for interest rates to be put up.

The idea that the Dow index might jump by two-thirds was, well, the sort of thing some Kansas radio celebrity would come up with. But with three months to go, the Dow 10,000 Club is looking less like a bunch of cultists who might end their days as a messy mass suicide.

Recent weeks have seen the most dramatic stock market explosion — ripping through London as well as New York — that the financial world has ever seen. This week, the Dow burst through 8000, marking a 27 per cent rise this year.

Our own version of the Dow, the FTSE 100 index, surged through 5300 on Thursday. On Friday last week, the index jumped 160 points in one trading session — the second biggest one-day surge ever. The Footsie has rocketed 30 per cent this year as a jaw-dropping £250 billion has been added to the value of the country's top 100 firms.

Such a feeding frenzy has never been seen before in the major Western financial centres. And, disturbingly, there is very little agreement on what is fuelling the markets.

Strategists point, limply, to the heavy flows of money from members of the investing public heading into US mutual funds and, in Britain, into unit trusts, investment trusts and other "collective" investment vehicles.

It is assumed that, with interest rates remaining low, institutional investors can think of little else to do with the money except place it in the stock market. The New Paradigm Economists (see top right) argue that the traditional "business cycle" may no longer exist.

But whatever the cause, and whatever valuation yardsticks market analysts choose to use, shares are now more expensive than ever before. And on the two or three occasions in history when share prices have been close to current value levels, something has happened: the markets have crashed.

Most investment professionals use past stock market history to help them predict the future, and so many have spent the past 18 months growing increasingly bearish. If history says — as it does — that share prices are over-valued and waiting to collapse, the natural inclination is to leave the stock market.

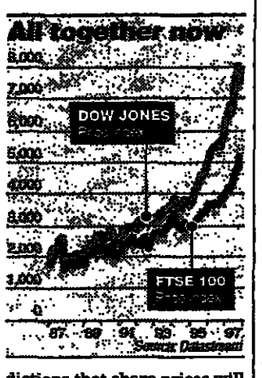
The most respected names in the British fund management industry have followed this logic — Carol Galley of Mercury Asset Management, Tony Dye of PDFM and Paul Myners of Gartmore.

Sadly, the "opportunity cost" of being relatively underweight in the stock market when share prices are soaring has run to billions of pounds for the pensions these fund managers manage.

Others have been bearish, as well. From individual punters in the futures market to Warren Buffett, the legendary American investor, word has come: "stock markets are over-cooked."

But prices have continued to rise, lending an air of unreality. All the time, takeover deals and corporate mergers have become increasingly extravagant, culminating in this week's news that a 13-year-old telecoms company called WorldCom — built through 150 acquisitions — is offering shares worth $30 billion to take over MCI, the US telecoms group which our own British Telecom was hoping to merge with.

Suddenly, some of those British bears who have been warning of a crash, have begun to revise their views. Two strategists at NatWest Securities, Edmond Warner and Bob Semple, set the ball rolling — tearing up their "sell" recommendations and predicting, instead, that the Footsie will rise to 7000 by the year 2000. Reports, meanwhile, that Britain is softening its attitude towards European Monetary Union have provoked a rash of new predictions that share prices will continue to soar. Talk in the City is now all about interest rates falling and how a weaker pound will help British exporters. The stock market is described as "underpinned," and yet there is evidence of cracking.



Share prices have not gone up in a straight line; there have been leaps and bounds, periods of vicious volatility. Many trading houses have been losing money as a result.

There is little doubt that both yesterday's news that BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays Bank, is up for sale and last month's announcement that Wall Street powerhouse Salomon Brothers is being taken over by the Travelers financial conglomerate were to a large extent brought on by the extreme conditions.

Worryingly, informed sources among City regulators say that the Securities and Futures Authority — the City watchdog that monitors all securities businesses — is working at full stretch, fighting potential and real fires across the Square Mile.

In short, the stockmarket is stressed. Experienced traders use words like "barking" and "barmy". There is a constant search for the "event", which might trigger a meltdown that will destroy investor confidence. Some pointed to the currency crisis which has swept through the Far East over the past two months, some have looked at El Niño, others have plumped for the Indonesian bush fires.

History shows the potential damage to investors' wealth. After the 1929 Wall Street crash, it took 25 years for share prices to regain their pre-crash levels.

There is an old stock market rule which says that equities always climb a wall of worry, but there is also a rule which says if you are worried about a stock, sell it and stop worrying.

Joe Granville and his Dow 10,000 gang would scoff at such advice, but the message is clear: stick to dry land.

The Yanks have a word for it

AMERICANS are calling it the Goldilocks scenario — the economic expansion that's *not too hot*, or too cold. Output growth is running at 4.1 per cent and unemployment is below 5 per cent, while inflation is not taking off, *writes Charlotte Denny*.

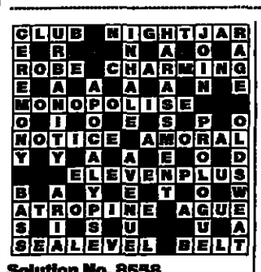
Business confidence is soaring due to low interest rates and high corporate profits, and the stock market is going up like a rocket. News yesterday that earnings rose less than expected last *month* saw Wall Street pick up 1.4 per cent at the start of trading.

With the US in its sixth year of output growth, some analysts are saying the economy has entered a new era where growth can be permanently high without sparking inflation. On Wall Street they are calling it the New Age, New Paradigm, or *even* Brave New World.

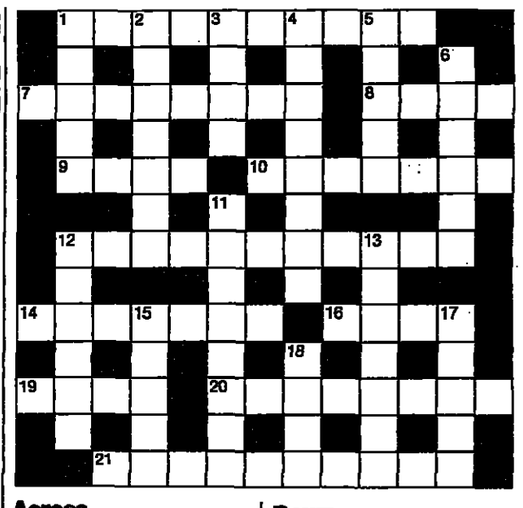
A productivity revolution ushered in by massive investment in information technology has boosted the long term sustainable rate of non-inflationary growth, while global competition has put downward pressure on prices.

Academics are sceptical. Professor Charlie Bean, of the London School of Economics, rejects the idea that global competition has *brought about the death of* inflation, but concedes there may be something in the productivity thesis. "It may be possible to expand the economy more than was the case in the past . . . but *that's not an argument for* suddenly putting your foot down on the accelerator."

Quick Crossword No. 8559



Solution No. 8558



Across

1 Large pendant light-fitting (10)
7 Cheese for grating (8)
8 Area of water or shared resource (4)
9 Stringed instrument (4)
10 Set apart (7)
12 Thurber's dreamer (6,5)
14 Heavy silk fabric (7)
16 Join (metal parts) together (4)
19 Avoid (4)
20 Gallup, for example (8)
21 A nap (5,5)

Down

1 Quarrel or coincide (5)
2 Naval officer (7)
3 Twilight (4)
4 (Feeling) solitary (8)
5 Banish (from school) (5)
6 "The best words in the best order" (6)
11 Exact likeness (4,4)
12 Good enough (6)
13 Disloyalty (7)
15 Apartment (American) (5)
17 Clothing (5)
18 Talon (4)

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Saturday October 4 1997

The Guardian

the week

PHOTOMONTAGE BY STEVE CAPLIN

Sack Tony Banks? You must be joking. But one more off-colour joke and he might find that he is no longer the jester in Tony Blair's pack. New Labour, new seriousness? **David McKie** looks back at the jokes that live on when the policies are long forgotten

Bringing the House down

CAN *a man lose his job* for making a joke? Tony Banks's place as minister for sport is safe for the moment, according to Tony Blair yesterday: but because of the repercussions of his characteristic knockabout turn at a Tribune meeting in Brighton he will still be sweating over the threatened reshuffle. "To make things worse," he said of the Tories at Brighton, "they have elected a foetus as leader. I bet a lot of them wish they had not voted against abortion now."

No one in the hall found this very remarkable. Jokes are part of the lifeblood of conference. They cheer people up, send them home with a smile on their faces. Inserted into otherwise serious texts, they keep the audience listening. Humour, John Prescott said yesterday, mattered as much as policy, which was over-egging it just a little.

Banks, even so, is in trouble. A string of subsequent jokes about Peter Mandelson won't have helped. The Prime Minister was *said not to be pleased, while* Banks's immediate boss, Chris Smith, issued a public rebuke to his gabby subordinate.

Had this been an isolated incident it might have been forgotten, but Banks has shot his mouth off regularly since he became a minister. Accumulate too many penalty points in football and they automatically ban you. It's accumulated penalty points, not the foetus joke, which Tony Banks has to worry about.

Most memorable political jokes are built round an insult. There's a kind of insult-joke hierarchy. Some are friendly, even affectionate insults, like Denis Healey on Geoffrey Howe: "Like being savaged by a dead sheep," he said when Howe attacked him.

Others are brutal insults, leaving scars behind. The worst of recent memory came from Norman Tebbit who, infuriated by a Labour MP with a history of heart trouble called Tom Litterick, roared across the floor of the Commons: "Go away and have another heart attack." Not long afterwards, that is exactly what Litterick fatally did.

This kind of graceless attack is on much the same level as name calling, piling on random abuse in the hope that some will lodge in the public memory. ("Calumniate, calumniate!" Beaumarchais advised. "Something will always stick".)

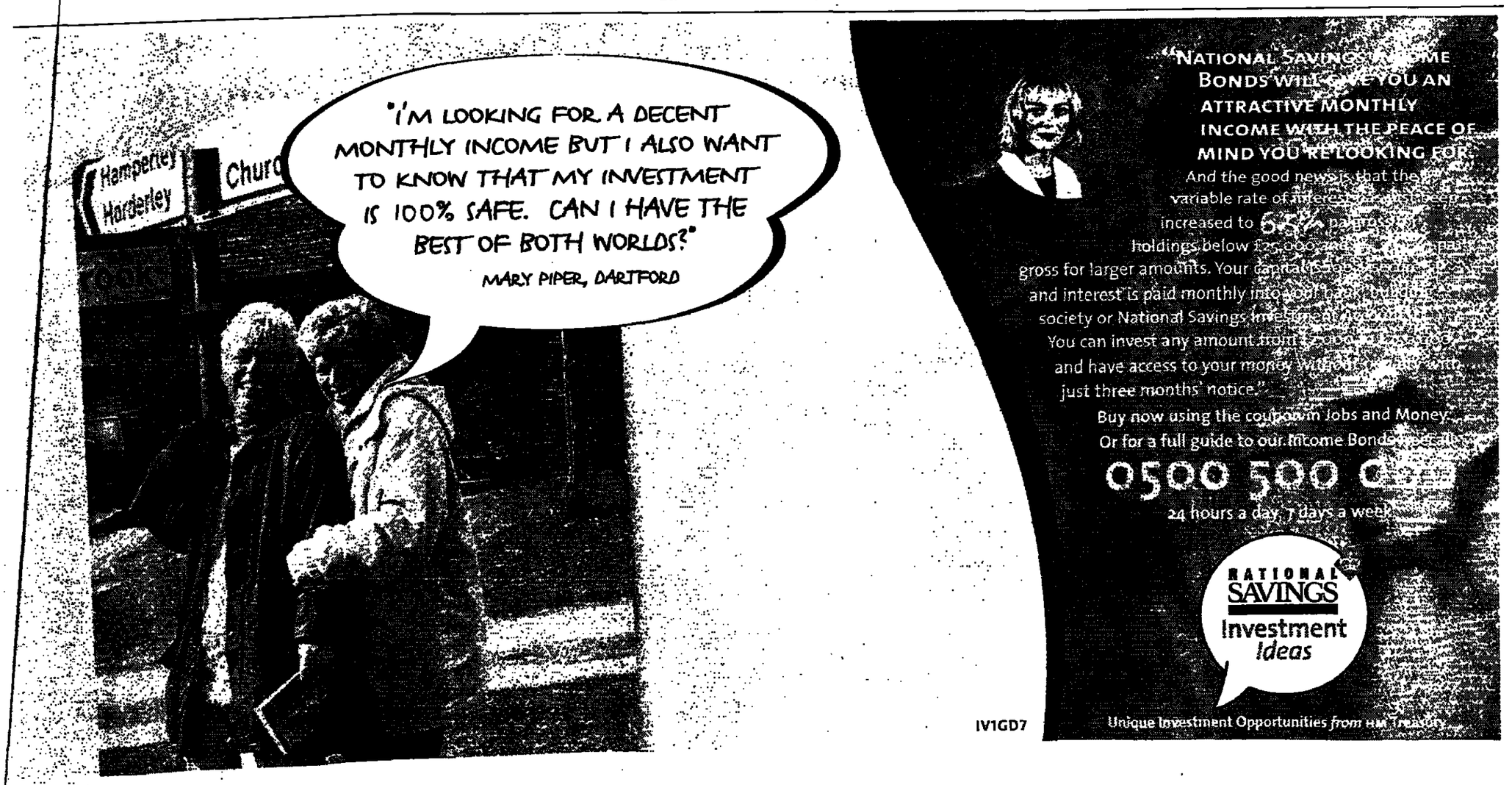
> **"Politics is about humour as much as policies"**
> John Prescott on the Today programme yesterday

Sometimes it's simply a nickname which its victim will never shake off. Asquith, who had a weakness for drink, became "Squiffy"; Lloyd George, with his weakness for women, "the goat." More wittily, the American senator Everett Dirksen got tagged "The Wizard of Ooze".

One rung above that is the sort of attack Tony Banks thought he was making in Brighton: the sort of abusive jokiness, or joky abuse, which delights your audience and marks you down as a bit of a card. It doesn't sound as bitter as Tebbit on Litterick, but it's purely ephemeral and doesn't advance an argument. Some people think that Banks on abortion aimed at that level but hit the one below it, if not with the foetus, than certainly with the abortion — much as no doubt an earlier generation did when Lloyd George said of Herbert Samuel: "When they circumcised Herbert Samuel they threw away the wrong bit."

Unless you deliberately go for the basement ("he couldn't see a belt, Margot Asquith said of Lloyd George, without hitting below it") there are subjects better avoided. One is death. Senator John Kerry had to apologise when he joked in 1988 about a despised vice-president "The Secret Service is under orders that if Bush is shot, they shoot Quayle."

Jokes about failing mental and physical health are also better deleted. The Labour MP Jimmy Maxton's intervention, for instance, in the final speech a declining Ramsay Macdonald made to the Commons: page 14



the week that was

A 75-year-old Briton has a 23-year-old Thai bride. We might indulge our feelings of outrage at such exploitation, says **Angela Neustatter**, but how would that help?

Don't Thai the knot

Brian Clegg and his Thai bride, Banjit "Joom" Sawangdee, have been saying loudly and clearly this week that theirs is a marriage of love. They are *very* happy.

But does anyone care, even if they are? The reason this story hit the news is not the romantic status of Clegg, the twice-divorced and retired chairman of Northern Gas, and Joom, a waitress earning £100 a month from the impoverished north-east of Thailand. What attracted the headline writers was the fact that Clegg is 75 and Joom is 23, and that he met his bride through the Kent-based dating and marriage agency, Siam Introductions.

The age difference might have won Clegg the "dirty old man" soubriquet, but both parties at least appear to have willingly entered their partnership. In other cases, however, the contract seems much less clear-cut. Some 4,000 girls are "bought" by men each year through agencies operating in south-east Asia and eastern Europe in an uncomfortable echo of *colonialist slavery.*

Russians are currently the favoured choice. They may not disembark in Britain manacled and bearing marks of beatings, but they have to all intents and purposes been traded. For "less than the price of a Ford Fiesta", as one slick salesman put it, men can get themselves a wife who does not expect the troublesome equalities that British women have come to anticipate.

There is, certainly, something disturbing in the idea of such marriages, and I wonder at the mentality and motivations of men who want a young bride who

probably can share little of life's experience or knowledge with them. But I do not believe we help the "bought" brides if all we do is vent fury at the purchasers for doing what men have done through the ages — use their wealth and position to "buy" women. Nor does a knee-jerk call for the banning of the agencies that line up these arrangements do much good.

I visited Thailand last year to write about the selling of very young girls for sex and I have rarely felt more sickened and appalled at male desires. I also saw how immensely difficult it is to prevent this trade in a country where poverty and desperation is so great, where families will sell their daughters and where the daughters in turn see no choice in their destiny. When this is the world you inhabit, marriage to a westerner who can give you some degree of status and financial security may seem highly desirable.

Marital bliss . . . Banjit "Joom" Sawangdee (23), a Thai waitress, and Brian Clegg (75), a twice-divorced retired executive, who met through an agency which introduces Westerners and Asians

Joom says that she wanted to meet a foreigner. "I wanted to travel". Do we have the right to say that women from countries where they are likely to be treated as property by the men they marry, are wrong to choose a Western mate?

If we truly want to help women make choices about who they marry and why they do it, we have to work to change their circumstances. The one cheering thing I saw in Thailand was Unicef's Daughters' Education Programme, in the desperately deprived Chiang Rai region. Here, some 90 per cent of girls are taken to "work" in Bangkok or nearby towns once they finish primary school.

The programme offers alternatives in the form of support for girls through their secondary years, schooling and skills training. Few of the several hundred girls taken into the programme went on to work in the sex trade, and most found paid employment.

In Britain, perhaps we should emulate the success of the programme by helping the brides who are brought here with protection and support.

But to return to the individual case of Clegg and Joom, isn't it just possible that the protective outrage on her behalf is misplaced? She insists she has corresponded with her husband before deciding that she was clear he was "a sweet man" and that she wanted to marry him. She had turned down a much younger man because "he did not feel right".

And if, as seems likely, she outlives Clegg, she will receive an annual index-linked pension of £27,000. Perhaps Joom is less a victim of the skin trade than a canny woman who is more than happy to make an accommodation when it comes to marriage. Something many of us do in our own sweet ways.

HAVE YOU BEEN PAYING ATTENTION ?

1 What was Noah's lark?

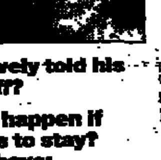
2 Which publication called for the legalisation of cannabis?
a) Loaded
b) Farmers Weekly
c) Sunday Sport
d) Independent on Sunday

3 Who criticised *Haworth*, heart of Brontë country, for its wuthering prices?

4 The Pope was headlining the Catholic Woodstock, but who was supporting?
a) Sinead O'Connor
b) Bishop Desmond Tutu
c) Bob Dylan
d) Snoop Doggy Dog

5 It could be you. It could be you. Whose mistake made them smile?

6 How is this foxy lady getting into politics?



7 Who effectively told his boss to sod off?

8 What might happen if Granny comes to stay? Families will have:
a) tax breaks
b) coffee breaks
c) nervous breakdowns
d) break dancing

9 "It's great to *be able to* place a strawberry on a man's you-know-what, but I'm scared he'll cry 'Ooh, watch my bad back!'" Which bit of hot stuff divulged her desperation for sex?

10 Why did a case of the wrong trousers leave Don Kerr *of Newton Abbot* wanting to take a cleaners to the cleaners?

11 Which regional brogue came bottom of the "hierarchy of accents"?
a) Liverpudlian
b) Glaswegian
c) Brummie
d) Geordie

12 "Women are made for loving, not hitting." Who entered into the fray?

13 "He's a lovely guy — just the sort you'd like your daughter to bring home." Who on whom?

14 Who has become known as the C-word?
a) Chelsea football club
b) Cherie Blair
c) Edwina Currie
d) Chelsea Clinton

15 Who managed to put both his foetus in his mouth?

Gabrielle Morris

Answers, bottom left of this page

THEME OF THE WEEK PRECOCIOUSNESS

With our baby prime minister leading winsomely from the front, it was a week for the precocious to get truly ahead of themselves.

Thrusting out in front were 13-year-old southpaws Emma Brammer and Andrea Prime.

The pair were due to star in a boxing match in a Stoke-on-Trent night club. A few hours before the contest, Emma pulled out, citing the ubiquitous "media pressure". The prospect of two girls boxing for an adult audience had made most people feel a little uncomfortable, hard as it was to define quite why. Suffice it to say it just seemed a bit, well, dodgy.

Yet some critics of the bout almost made you want it to go ahead. The former world featherweight champion, Harold Winstone, for one. "I'm glad my daughters were more interested in the opposite sex and cooking and cleaning," he growled.

More wholesome on points was the role granted to two 11-year-olds: their job to make the Labour Conference feel good about itself. On Tuesday, Emma O'Brien of Ellesmere Port had a letter she had written to the Prime Minister read out to conference. Emma had benefited from a 50-hour pilot literacy summer school scheme.

"I think you and Parliament have done the right thing. I have got a better education," Emma obligingly concluded, endorsing government policy. The following day, another participant in the government literacy summer schools, Charlie Nobbs of Brighton, actually spoke at the conference and earned a standing ovation and a pat on the back from the PM.

The week also saw the first known teenage lottery multi-millionaire, 19-year-old Greig Stevens of Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Greig won £5.4 million, after buying his ticket 10 minutes before the deadline on Saturday night. Greig's advanced status in life for one of his tender years was already evident before he became rich; he and his 19-year-old girlfriend, Donna Perry, have a son aged eight months. Donna worked in a chip shop — until Saturday night, that is.

Jonathan Margolis

Bringing the House down

◀page 13 "Sit down, man, you're a bloody tragedy".

US politicians are possibly more brutal than ours. "We have every kind of mixture you can have. I have a black, I have a woman, two Jews and a cripple," Reagan's interior secretary, James Watt, said of a delegation he was required to meet. He had to resign. "Well, if Quayle ever does ascend to the presidency, you can be sure he won't fall out of *his chair*," the White House chief of staff John Sununu told an elderly protester who fell out of his wheelchair after criticising vice-president Quayle. The trick is to keep the joke brutal, and even wounding, without alienating more than a few *of the audience. And that means* the wider audience, not just the folks in the hall.

You also need to be careful before you insult people's looks. Robin Cook ("garden gnome") gets too much of that. But if you're provoked *it's a different matter.* Woman MP to Churchill (there are many versions of this story: some say it was Nancy Astor, others Bessie Braddock): "Churchill, you're drunk." Churchill (swaying): "I may be drunk. But you are ugly. And tomorrow I shall be sober."

Is much of this really humour? Depends on your taste: it's certainly mild compared to much of what you'd hear on the fringe at Edinburgh. But the classy performers aim higher. On the next rung up there are jokes, still based on insults, but delivered with a cunning and wit which cancels out the brutality. "For 20 years," said Leo Amery of Asquith, "he has held a season ticket on the line of least resistance." "The only case I know," said Churchill of the US secretary of state, John Foster Dulles, "of a bull who carries his china shop about with him."

Victorian politicians, who were no less brutal than ours, delighted in intricate build-ups. Some of the jokey insults Disraeli addressed to Gladstone were epigrammatically brief: "Honest in the most odious sense of the word"; "He has not a single redeeming defect." But perhaps the most famous — "A sophistical rhetorician inebriated with the exuberance of *his own* verbosity" — is part of a loving parody of Gladstone's rhetorical style.

Churchill, born in that era, preserved some of its habits. "I remember when I was a child," he said of Ramsay Macdonald, "being taken to the celebrated Barnum's circus, which contained an exhibition of freaks and monstrosities, but the exhibit on the programme which I most desired to see was the *one described as 'The Boneless* Wonder'. My parents judged that the spectacle would be too revolting and demoralising for my youthful eyes, and I have waited 50 years to see the Boneless Wonder, sitting on the Treasury bench."

The Boneless Wonder: not many who heard it were going to forget it. Which means that it really belongs one rung higher: in the category of political insult-jokes where the joke convulses all present but an irremovable sting is *left in the victim. Some of this is* designed to support a certain interpretation in political character analysis. "If he ever went to school without boots it was because he was too big for them," the Tory backbencher Ivor Bulmer-Thomas *said of the barefoot* pretensions of Harold Wilson. "He immatures with age," said Wilson of Benn. These things were remembered because they chimed with existing perceptions.

John Smith was a master of this *technique: Robin Cook is the best* of today's practitioners. But the undisputed master in modern times was Denis Healey. As shadow foreign secretary his assignment was to put his big bullying boot into Geoffrey Howe. But *his real target, denied him by a* party which had rejected him as its leader in favour of Michael Foot, whom he simultaneously wondered at and reviled, was Margaret Thatcher.

"I have not wasted time on the Foreign Secretary this afternoon," he began one characteristic attack, "although I am bound to say that some of his colleagues must be a bit tired now of his hobbling around from one of their doorsteps to another, with a bleeding hole in his foot and a smoking gun in his hand, telling them he did not know it was loaded. The Foreign Secretary, however, is not the real villain in this case; he is the fall guy. Those of us with long memories will feel he is rather like *poor van der Lubbe in the Reich*stag fire trial. We are asking ourselves the question that was asked at the trial: who is the Mephistopheles behind this shabby Faust? The answer to that is clear . . . The Right Honourable *Lady, for whom I have a great per*sonal affection, has formidable qualities, a powerful intelligence, and immense courage, but those qualities can turn into horrendous vices, unless they are moderated by colleagues who have more expe*rience, understanding and sensi*tivity. As she has got rid of all those colleagues, no one is left in the Cabinet with both the courage and the ability to argue with her."

On every score you can think of, that would be hard to beat. And it *foreshadowed the very indictment* raised by her colleagues in 1990 when she was toppled. The immediate author of her downfall then was Sir Geoffrey himself, who having suffered continuous humiliation finally buckled. The core of *the indictment was contained in a* joke: "It is rather," said Howe, recalling how she had cut the ground from under him, "like sending your opening batsmen to the crease only for them to find, the moment the first balls are *bowled, that their bats have been* broken before the game by the team captain."

THE SORT of joke which issues from Tony Banks has none of this meticulous preparation. They are nearly all off the cuff, more so even that Dennis Skinner's, for though Skinner's mordant jokes are often snap reactions, some are cooked up beforehand and released when the occasion appears. In every political arena, a spontaneous joke scores double. The classic is attributed to John Wilkes:

The Earl of Sandwich: "'Pon my soul, Wilkes, I don't know whether you'll die on the gallows or of the pox." Wilkes: "That depends, my Lord, on whether I first embrace your Lordship's principles, or your Lordship's mistresses."

But one of Disraeli's most haunting lines about Gladstone is said to have been a response to an *unexpected question: could he dis*tinguish between the meaning of "misfortune" and the meaning of "calamity"? "If Gladstone fell into the Thames," the great man replied, "that would be a misfortune. And if anyone pulled him *out, that, I suppose, would be a* calamity." Someone once asked Ted Heath why Mrs Thatcher disliked him. "I am not a doctor," he said.

Some of the best of Banks falls into this category. There used to be two Tory MPs in Leicester: the tac*iturn and lugubrious* Derek Spencer, who became Solicitor General, and the infuriatingly bouncy and bumptious Peter Bruinvels. "On the town hall at Leicester," Spencer informed the Commons one slumbrous after*noon, "there is a monster with two* heads. . ." "It is Peter Bruinvels!" cried Banks. Quick as a flash.

Denis Healey could be just as outrageous as Banks. In a jokey line, which didn't go down too well with the Chinese government, he *condemned Left MPs who attacked* him over his stewardship of the economy as "out of their tiny Chinese minds", only to be thrown within weeks into a contest for the party leadership where that quip was remembered against him. And then there's Jonathan Aitken, long denied Cabinet membership by Margaret Thatcher.

Some said this was out of bitterness at the way he ended a relationship with the PM's daughter. Others thought he had died for a joke: "Margaret Thatcher," he said in the context of her grasp of Middle Eastern affairs "probably thinks Sinai is the plural of sinus." If Banks loses all for the sake of a joke, he won't be the only one.

Funny, we almost won . . . the dream team of Roy Hattersley and Neil Kinnock bend to a joke

Pure abuse

"A bunch of no-good bums" **Ronald Reagan's** assessment of the Polish government, captured during a sound check before a national radio address

"You snivelling little git" Labour MP **Brian Sedgemore** on Nigel Lawson, then Chancellor, in December 1985

"He's a 85-year-old chain-smoking Chinese dwarf" ***Patrick Buchanan*** (when presidential candidate) on Deng Xiaoping

Abuse with a twinge of humour

Nancy Astor: "If I were your wife I would put poison in your coffee." **Churchill**: "And if I were your husband I would drink it."

"You have the manners of a semi house-trained polecat" **Michael Foot**, then Leader of the Commons, on the young Norman Tebbit

"The Miniature for Sport" **Dennis Skinner** on the diminutive former Sports Minister, Colin Moynihan

"A wart on Thatcher's nose" **Dennis Skinner** on John Gummer, agriculture minister under Margaret Thatcher

"I withdraw the word pompous" **Dennis Skinner**, when told by the Speaker to withdraw "that offending word" after he had called David Owen a "pompous sod".

"A whisky and soda for me, Giovanni, and a gin and tonic for my friend." Tory MP **Nicholas Soames**, shouting across the Chamber to the former ship's steward, John Prescott

"He is undoubtedly living proof that a pigs bladder on as stick can be elected a member of parliament" **Tony Banks** on Conservative backbencher Terry Dicks

"Do you think you will get on the executive, Peter?" **John Prescott**, talking to a crab in a jar, in reference to Peter Mandelson's bid for election to the Labour NEC

Humour with a twinge of abuse

"A modest man who has much to be modest about" **Winston Churchill** on Clement Attlee

"He has a brilliant mind, until he makes it up" **Margot Asquith** on Stafford Cripps

"It's the first time in recorded history that turkeys have been known to vote for Christmas" **James Callaghan** on Nationalists withdrawing support for his government.

"That's the most intelligent remark I've heard from Labour this entire campaign" **John Major** during this year's election campaign when a man with a red mohican hairstyle shouted "Bollocks!" at him

Humour with a twinge of spice

"It's great to be able to place a strawberry on a man's you-know-what, but I'm scared he'll cry 'Ooh, watch my bad back!'" **Edwina Currie**

Pure humour

"It's very gloomy. The most cheerful painting is the murder scene from Hamlet" **Robin Cook** shortly after moving into the Foreign Secretary's flat in Nash Terrace

Pure foolishness

"I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia for ever. We begin bombing in five minutes" **Ronald Reagan**, captured on tape, unwittingly, before a national radio address

Quiz answers

1) Noah — short for Noted Author And Historian — was Diana, Princess of Wales's codename *for Andrew Morton. He revealed this* week that Diana had been the key source for his book about her troubled marriage.
2) d — IoS. The editor, Rosie Boycott, started a campaign backed by 100 high-profile people to decriminalise cannabis.
3) Japanese travel agents complained that their coach tourists found Haworth tacky with too many tea and souvenir shops.
4) c — Bob Dylan, who did a 15-minute set at the Woodstock of the Spirit concert, where the Pope spoke to 300,000 young people outside Bologna.
5) A four-man pub syndicate from Kent won *two tranches of £10.8m on the National Lot*tery when they accidentally entered the same line of numbers twice.
6) Cherie Booth's half sister, former model Lauren Booth, addressed a fringe meeting at the Labour Conference urging MPs to vote against fox hunting.
7) John Prescott, who invited the Labour Party Conference to celebrate the election victory saying: "Tony reminds us that we can't have any triumphalism. Oh sod it — yes we can!"
8) a — Tony Blair mooted the possibility of tax breaks for families who care for elderly relatives as part of the "welfare revolution".
9) Edwina Currie, who chose the News of the World to bemoan the lack of sexual partners her own age, as well as the fact that she hasn't had sex for three years.
10) Because they returned his trousers with a pair of earrings which Johnson's, a dry cleaners, said had been found in his pockets. The earrings did not belong to his wife and Don has been protesting his innocence.
11) c — Brummie. A psychological study discovered that crime suspects with a Brummie accent are twice as likely to be considered guilty as others.
12) Henry Cooper, who was speaking about Britain's first officially sanctioned fight between two schoolgirls, which was later cancelled after one of the girls, aged 13, pulled out.
13) Ken Livingstone on Peter Mandelson. Ken's compliment came after he'd beaten Mandy on to the National Executive.
14) d — Chelsea Clinton, who is referred to on Stanford campus where she now studies as "the C-word" because of the press ban on reporting anything about her student life.
15) Tony Banks, the accident-prone Sports Minister who tastelessly described William Hague as a "foetus", adding "I bet there's a lot of Tory MPs that wish they hadn't voted against abortion now."

How you rate

0-4 Banks
5-9 Livingstone
10-14 Prescott
15 Blair

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Jim White meets Les Ferdinand, a striker who is bankable and thankful

The £12m lad done good

Sir Les, cultural ambassador: 'I don't want to lose this. I love it so much I'm going to do everything I can to play as long as I can' PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN McCABE

IF you wanted a measure of the pre-eminent position football and footballers now enjoy in our lives, it was there the moment Les Ferdinand walked into the West Lodge Hotel in Hadley End on Thursday afternoon. To be found just where London finally peters out into the green belt of Hertfordshire, this is a gaff where they are so used to accommodating the wealthy there is a wind sock on for guests who bring their own helicopters.

Pop singers and movie stars regularly motor up its meandering drive, watched by a security camera on every other tree. The car park looks like a Mercedes Benz convention. Yet when Les climbed from his Range Rover and ambled easily across the lobby, glowing from a morning's training, the whole place descended into an involuntary twitch and flutter. And that was just the men.

"Can you make this for Craig," asked the waitress at the head of the queue which immediately lined up at his table the moment Les sat down for an apple juice. "Sorry to disturb you, I don't normally ask guests, but my son'ld never forgive me if he knew you'd been in and I'd not asked." "Arsenal fan is he?" joked Les, the Spurs hero, as he signed away. The woman, distracted utterly by his gigawatt grin, didn't reply: she was speechless in his presence.

The reaction he generates is not simply because Les is laughably good-looking. It is not just that he is known to be stepping out with the curvaceous television presenter, Dani Behr. It is not even, as the woman on the reception desk observed (out of his earshot, she thought), that he "has one hell of a tasty bum on him". It is that Les Ferdinand is a successful professional footballer, and thus a very rich one.

Next Saturday he will be in Rome, helping England qualify for the World Cup Finals, or so the nation fervently hopes. And those lining up at his table, or nodding over in acknowledgment, or just staring at him, share one fundamental belief: these days there can be nothing better to be than someone like Les. Pop singers and movie stars may be equally lusted over, but what Les was generating here was something else. Admiration. Respect. This lad had made it.

And he rather likes the reaction he causes. "Listen, when I started in the game, I wanted to be recognised," he says, after the staff have finally twittered back to work. "I saw older players getting asked for their autographs and I thought, yeah, I want some of that, man.

"See people only recognise me because I've done well at my job and that gives me satisfaction, no denying it. But the other thing about fame is this: I get into places now because I'm Les Ferdinand. If I was just an ordinary black geezer from Ladbroke Grove I wouldn't get in. That makes me realise what a very lucky ordinary black geezer I am."

Rather like a pub syndicate which discovers it has not one but two winning lines on the Lottery, Ferdinand spends much of his time astonished by his good fortune. He can't quite believe that he, the lad from a struggling working-class family in West London, has it all, and has it so soon.

"You set yourself dreams," he says. "Play for England, play for Spurs, own a Porsche. I've done them all. I know it's a horrible cliché, but I'll say it anyway: it's a dream come true."

Apart from the fast cars and the big house and the wardrobe the size of a respectable semi ("I really couldn't tell you how many jackets I have — that's bad, innit") Ferdinand has now acquired the other essential possession of a soccer star, his autobiography. It's not a great read, as footballing memoirs seldom are. But amid the standard accounts of lads and goals there are hints of the struggle he has made to reach the top.

In football terms he is a late comer. While most of his fellow professionals were spotted and groomed by clubs from as young as eight years old, he was 20, and a father, before he earned a living out of the game. Like Ian Wright, the Arsenal and England striker, he had to make his name as an amateur before he was noticed by the big boys.

"I've heard Wrighty say this and I definitely agree with him," he says. "When you've done an ordinary job, like me steam-cleaning taxis and selling wallpaper, when you've worked nine hours before you can go and play your football ... then suddenly you're being paid to kick a ball. Man, do you appreciate that? If you don't know nothing else but being a pro footballer, you can get carried away, let it go to your head. No disrespect, I'm not saying everyone does. But some of them, they have no idea what they got."

He also believes that it is no coincidence that both he and Wright had to make their way up through the amateur game before coming to the notice of the big clubs.

"It's not the case so much now, but when I was a kid there was definitely a reluctance to look at black kids. Those words I hate and despise: 'They've got a chip on their shoulder'. You'd hear that all the time. No one tried to understand or work with us; the moment there was a hint of anything, we got dismissed as having an attitude problem."

Too many of his contemporaries missed the opportunity to better themselves through football, he says, because no one cared to give them a chance. "Hey, round our way, it was easy to get into trouble but I think in life you've got choices. Fortunately, I chose not to be led astray. That was my mum mainly. She instilled me with proper values. That, and I was scared she'd beat the crap out of me if I did wrong."

Ironically, Ferdinand's first professional club was Queen's Park Rangers, who bought him from non-league Hayes. The irony was that they need not have paid a penny, if only they had bothered to look. He was born and brought up within the shadow of Queen's Park Rangers' Loftus Road stadium, where his parents settled after arriving from St Lucia in the early sixties. He played all his junior football within a couple of miles of its centre circle, yet no one from his estate was ever watched by scouts from the club.

'You know from day one you're the product. Any footballer who thinks there's sentiment in this game had better think again'

"At the school I went to there was umpteen excellent black players," he says. "But when I got to QPR, it was full of Irish and Scots lads. No one from London. Once the chairman said to me: 'You're from round here, why does no one from the White City estate support us?' I said: 'Because you don't support them'."

Once he got his opportunity, Ferdinand says he was not about to let it go. Not least because he wouldn't have been able to face his mother if he had. "I don't want to lose this. I love it so much, I'm going to do everything I can to play as long as I can," he says.

"But then the stakes are so high now in football, you can't afford to let anything slip anyway. If you're cynical about it, you realise there is so much to be earned, you want to stay in the game as long as you can and earn it. And your body is all you got. So you look after it."

And he claims not to be unusual in avoiding booze, bad food and late nights. The days, he says, of top footballers living it large are numbered. "Take Newcastle the other week beating Barcelona. Even in my time there, it would have been out on the town, few drinks to celebrate, run them off in training next day. Now I know for a fact after that game, it was back to the hotel, soft drink, light meal, bed and plenty of rest.

"It's all about education. We now get the best advice on diet, stretching, fitness. Us players needed that education; they had it on the continent for years and all the foreign lads coming over, they brought that attitude with them. Anyhow, football is such a business now, they're going to make sure they get the best out of their product. They don't want it growing obsolete before they've got their money's worth out of it."

Product? Obsolete? Is that how the modern footballer thinks of himself? "You know from day one you're the product. Any footballer who thinks there's any sentiment in this game had better think again."

Ferdinand speaks from first-hand experience. After establishing himself at QPR he was transferred to Newcastle United two years ago for £6 million. This summer he was transferred to Spurs, again for £6 million. Which, as a product, puts him in the same league as a top-of-the-range Lear Jet, or a superior gin palace in which to cruise the Med.

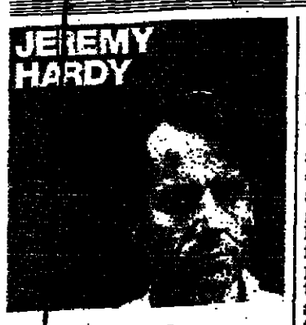
This afternoon, the two teams meet at Newcastle's St James's Park and Ferdinand will be back at the club which, the talk on the Tyne suggested, he never wanted to leave. "I didn't want to leave, it's true, because I felt we were on to something big there," he says. "But I hold them no bitterness for selling me. I gave them two good years, and they obviously thought now I was 30, £6 million was good money. It's a business. What makes me laugh sometimes though is those chairmen who say footballers have no loyalty — they're only too happy to off-load us when they need the cash. Loyalty, you know, it cuts both ways." So how long does he give it at Spurs before the product is sold on once more? Another two years? "Man, as long as possible, 36, 37, 38. But you can't look to the future in this game, you might get injured tomorrow and be out of it. Finished. Gone."

Besides, he says, he has learnt from the worst experience of his life, to enjoy the moment. "My mum died of cancer just as I was beginning to make it. All my early life I'd been told by every Tom, Dick and Harry to look to the future. Then mum dies at 45, what future was she looking at? You know, it's the one regret of my life I could never repay her for what she done for me when I was a kid. Make no mistake, without her driving me, giving me the right values, I wouldn't have this. If she could have seen me on that pitch in Rome next Saturday, man, she'd have been bursting with pride."

And with that thought, for a moment, the man who has everything looks as disappointed as a man who has nothing.

Sir Les: An Autobiography of Les Ferdinand, is published by Headline at £16.99

JEREMY HARDY



The caring, sharing, flairing side of show biz

I was interested by the celebrities on show in Brighton this week. Many were stalwarts, but some, I suspect, were present only because of the invention of New Labour.

New Labour is a cause that appeals to people without a political thought in their head. It represents a kind of non-specific goodness, like "charity". One hears that a celebrity "does a lot for charity", and one is not supposed to ask which charities, what they represent or what they achieve. A charity can be anything from a donkey sanctuary to War on Want.

The Thatcher Foundation was granted charitable status. But it is simply good to give to charity, to roll a penny down the chute into that funnel where it spirals round and round, giving a fine display before disappearing out of sight. Celebrities tell us to give in order to help those less fortunate than ourselves, and we are discouraged from thinking, "Everyone's less fortunate than you, you bastard." Unthinking celebs used to consider it politic to support the Tories. The Tories were respectable, like charity. They also kept celebrities' taxes down. And they flattered those who believe you get where you are through hard work. Increasingly, they praised the charitable efforts of celebrities and replaced the principle of social justice with the privatised notion of the good cause.

It was noticeable during this last election that celebrity support for the Tories was very thin on the ground. Even the worst dregs of light entertainment stayed away. And today, even those celebrities who are passionate Conservatives are apt to keep their heads down. The smarter ones are very publicly New Labour.

True, some will always support the party of government; showbiz smiles on those who abase themselves before authority. But there are others who have genuinely allied themselves with the project, who really like all the words. Those who, three years ago, would say, "I'd like to vote for them, but I'm worried that once they're in, that Mr Gormley will take over" are reassured.

Blair represents something positive for those who once only knew what they were against. They knew they didn't believe in public ownership or the eradication of poverty, but they didn't know what they did believe in. Now they believe in Blair. They know he exists because he has been revealed to them.

The Conservatives helped this process along by providing non-political reasons to vote against them. They "became" arrogant, sleazy and remote. Before that they were modest, scrupulous and in-touch. Moreover, they'd done about as much damage as can be done to a country without a major shift in the Earth's tectonic plates and had run out of ideas. That is why Blair was able to say that he is Thatcher's true heir, a man who not only looks and sounds demented, but is able to invoke God's blessing. I would love to believe the "Phoney-Tony" tag, but I am increasingly terrified that he is sincere. His words may be meaningless, but he believes them all, over and over again.

They don't like noisy activists with their opinions and meetings and resolutions, but someone's got to lick envelopes

Of course Labour is not just Blair. There is a gallery of personalities to appeal to those who are still optimistic about this government. When they want light relief from someone less messianic, they have Prescott. When they want practical tight-fistedness, they have Brown. When they want a comedy hate-figure, they have Mandelson. And there have this week been flickers of rebellion. There is still unremitting leftism in the party, in spite of all that has been remitted.

Here we have to draw a distinction between New Labour and the Labour Party. The Party is something to which one must have a certain amount of commitment. New Labour is a project to be excited about. Excited, that is, in the marketing and media sense of the word. People in television who think an idea has a certain amount of potential and could run for a few years, always say that everyone's really excited by the project, even though they are clearly people without a central nervous system.

New Labour is not a repackaging of an old commodity, it is something else. The party still exists. It is, for the Blair coterie, a necessary evil. They can't do everything themselves. They don't like all those noisy activists with their opinions and their meetings and their resolutions; but someone's got to lick envelopes. The important thing is that such people don't put off the Government's new friends.

I don't refer here principally to celebrities, some of whom have been drifting Labour's way for a few years, or have always been Labour and are somehow able to rationalise what's happened to it. I refer mainly to those people whose allegiance is to New Labour the concept, and who are very much opposed to the Labour Party.

I don't know whether it is fair to include Lord Simon in that bracket, but he can't have been to many Labour branch meetings. I'm guessing here, but since he was not a party member at the time of his appointment to the cabinet, I'd say it's a safe bet. And Thatcher is happy that Blair "will not let Britain down". She is, of course, wrong. New Labour will do nothing for Britain; they've simply invented a New one.

That Andrew Morton — he's not a very good scapegoat, as such

FOR five weeks now, the British people have been looking for *someone to hate*, someone on whom we can load our rage and frustration over the death of Princess Diana. The paparazzi seemed promising. Henri Paul is dead. Prince Charles looked as if he was going to cop it, but recovered *nimbly, if belatedly*.

So step forward, Andrew Morton, the author of Diana, Her True Story. ("Shameful" — The Daily Mirror.) His crime appears to have been to have done what Diana wanted him to do — get her side of the story out — and to have made money doing it. As unspeakable crimes go, it's hardly the worst.

But I do have a niggle at the back of my mind, since I was present at the first (and perhaps the only) occasion when Andrew Morton met Prince Charles. It was at the press reception before the couple began their first big tour, of Australia.

Morton had just become royal correspondent of the Daily Star. Charles, in his diffident fashion, inquired why he had become a journalist. *"Because I always* wanted to write," said Morton. "In that case," asked the Prince, "why on earth did you join the Daily Star?" Not a very funny quip, or particularly offensive either, but I *do occasionally* wonder whether he regrets or even remembers making it now.

LANGUAGE corner: have you noticed how the phrase "as such" has begun its takeover of our daily conversation, like ground ivy? It's a sort of muted, British version of "Not!" from Wayne's World, because it generally denies what has gone before. "He's not my boyfriend as such" means, I suppose, that we don't sleep together. "It's not what I'd call a very good film, as such" means that it's truly awful. "Have you stopped smoking?" "Not as such," means you haven't stopped smoking.

In a Brighton restaurant yesterday the bill had a 10 per cent service charge added, but the credit card slip came back with the "gratuity" line open. I asked if it hadn't been included, and the waitress said: "That was the service charge; it wasn't the gratuity, as such." Intimidated, I left a quid on top.

And has anyone got any form on *"milky"? It seems to mean dipsy*, vague, not all there. "Has Mandy gone milky?" a tabloid asked the other day, about a supposed error of judgment by our Minister without Portfolio, and I heard a young woman say of a friend: "She's a bit milky these days."

SEX for old people may be a coming politically correct cause. A crowd of blue-rinsed ladies was seen wandering down the front in Brighton, all looking determined and all wearing T-shirts marked "Wine Me, Dine Me, 69 Me."

I practically never speak to Alastair Campbell partly because I would risk becoming infatuated with him

EVERYONE claims they want politicians who tell the truth, but as soon as they do, it's called a "gaffe". As Tony Banks, Britain's top gaffer, will tell you. His gaffes include saying that England are unlikely to win the World Cup, that Paul Gascoigne has no brains, that some MPs look "like a pile of old doos", and — the latest — that there is too much football on TV. All of these remarks are obviously, thunderously true, yet for saying so Mr Banks has received almost as much loathing as Andrew Morton. Even the foetus joke about William Hague first emerged during the Tory leadership campaign, told by Tory rivals, and later by Joan Collins.

(Banks was being attacked at a fringe meeting this week for making David Mellor the head of his football task force. After defending him, in a somewhat lukewarm fashion, he declared: "We'll just have to suck it and see," to delighted hoots.)

I suspect we are going to lose him anyway. Inside every unsuccessful minister is a backbencher signalling wildly to get out; not so much a cry for help as a plea to be kicked in the slats.

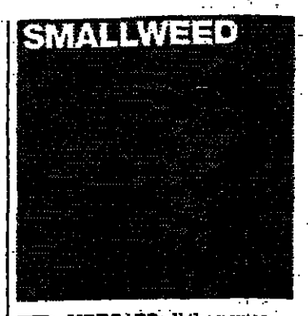
I WAS saddened to see the story about the actress Nicola Pagett, who became hopelessly infatuated with Tony Blair's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, and bombarded him with love letters — though less saddened when I saw that she was plugging a book in which she recounts the story.

I myself practically never speak to Mr Campbell. Partly this is because, with his muscular frame, Latin good looks and cruel lip-curling sneer, he makes Mr Darcy look like Paul Daniels. I would risk becoming infatuated with him myself. Also because I try to avoid all spin doctors, afraid that if I listened to them long enough, I might actually come to believe something, anything, they said.

AMERICAN conservatives have set up a website for people who claim to have been sexually harassed by Bill Clinton. So far it has scored 10,000 "hits". I cannot believe that even Mr Clinton has harassed 10,000 women, but then he can look after himself. But I can imagine other less important people finding themselves intimidated and hurt by this kind of permanent, mass online bullying — *particularly cowardly because it can* be anonymous and there is no legal resource yet.

Complaining that people misuse the Internet is as pointless as saying they misuse the phone or the Royal Mail. I just wish its ardent adherents would stop implying that it's going to usher in a miraculous and perfect new age for us all.

SMALLWEED



DISREGARD all the names *that are floating about*, most of which are the names that are always floating about on these occasions: the next chairman of the Arts Council ought to be the man who should have had it last time — the Yorkshire entrepreneur, Sir Ernest Hall. He's the man who revitalised Halifax by creating a haven for artists in a former mill.

Hooked on classical music since he first heard Valse Triste, by Sibelius, at the age of nine, he's as good enough pianist to have recorded the concertos of Bartók. He's had a contributory hand in many of the worthwhile pies baked on the Yorkshire art scene in recent years. And unlike most of the fancied contenders, he isn't part of the grand metropolitan circle. (I know Melvyn Bragg is a Cumbrian, but effectively he's a lapsed Cumbrian).

Sir Ernest is at the wrong end of his sixties, but I'm told that it doesn't show. New Labour must hire this man instantly or forfeit all credibility.

THE WORD pinguid, I see from the prints, is in danger of shouldering its way into common parlance, so much so that Smallweed has had to look it up in the dictionary. The results are *most disappointing*. Its principal meaning is simply "fat"; though secondary readings include unctuous, greasy and oily. There is also pinguescent, which means growing in fatness, as in a ruling by Fraser's Magazine (1832) that "haggis is unctuously pinguescent".

I had hoped to find pinguid defined at the very least as pinkly and languidly fat, but even that, it seems, is too much to ask of it. The curious thing is that half the sightings of pinguid logged in the electronic library over the past four years refer to the Thatcherite historian and Sunday Times columnist Andrew Roberts either by name or by meaty — even pinguid — implication.

Does anyone know, incidentally, where Roberts went to school? Curiously, this fact is not revealed on the dust jackets of his books. Eton, perhaps? Winchester? Or Bog Street Comprehensive? Why is he so shy on the matter? Perhaps he went to St Pinguid's.

AS WE SAT in the sun outside the (warmly recommended) Melrose fish bar on the sea front at Brighton this week, a Labour MP informed me that the composer Gustav Holst had once played cricket for Sussex. I found this hard to believe. I even suspected a cynical ploy to lead me, and thus my readers, into a vulgar error, but that cannot be so, since cynicism is now banned in the Labour Party. I see from musical reference books that Holst had neuritis in his right hand which stopped him playing the piano (he switched to the trombone and for a time made his living by playing in café orchestras) so I have to assume that my Labour MP has hit on the wrong composer.

Did he perhaps mean Walton? But Walton came from Oldham, and would in those days have played for Lancashire. Britten was born in a Lowestoft, Suffolk — in cricketing terms, a minor county — so he might well have qualified, but there's little in his *oeuvre* to suggest a fondness for bat and ball. Maybe it's someone a little less eminent. Arnold Bax? John Ireland? Rutland Boughton? Or Charles Ives? Or Henryk Górecki (*right arm fast medium*)? Any bids?

LABOUR were in Brighton (or Givingsville, as I gather the council now wants to call it in honour of Tony's speech) and the Tories, since this is their turn to go North, are heading for Blackpool. They haven't liked going to Brighton since the Labour mayor used her address of welcome to insult them: their conferences in the South are more likely to benefit Bournemouth. But is even Blackpool safe? Both its Tory seats went Labour in the election, and the council is overwhelmingly so, with only two Conservatives left.

I hate to add to William Hague's problems, but ought not he and his talented staff to be looking for venues more politically attuned to his party? Even in Bournemouth the council has gone Lib Dem. Having trawled the Municipal Year Book, I've compiled a short list of districts where the Tories still have a majority (*though in some* cases byelections may since have eroded it).

What about Arun, based in sun-kissed Littlehampton? Then there are Broxbourne, Herts; East Devon, based on wholly delightful Sidmouth; John Major's fiefdom of Huntingdon; South Staffordshire, based on Codsall; Spelthorne (round Staines) and Surrey Heath (round Camberley). The choice in the North is meagre: it seems to lie between Macclesfield and Hambleton, in Hague country in the North Riding.

At least by relocating to some of these spots, the party would give jaded journalists a break from their routine autumn itineraries. The prospect of a Sidmouth conference, or a Codsall conference even, would cheer them up no end and the gratitude might possibly show in their copy. True, these places don't have very big conference centres. But the Conservatives aren't a very big party.

NICE TO SEE at Brighton this week that our languages are infinitely flexible. Unison's Rodney Bickerstaffe, having invoked our forefathers, swiftly added: "... and foremothers".

Oil on the water

HEAD TO HEAD

Should we search the seas for more oil? **Chris Rose** of Greenpeace believes that's global suicide, while oilman **James May** says we can't do without it

Dear James,

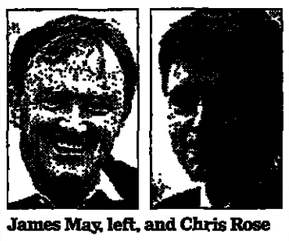
IT HAS been an interesting summer, hasn't it? I was on board our ship, MV Greenpeace, during our campaign when activists used inflatables or swam in front of oil company vessels in the Atlantic to try and pre*vent seismic testing — the first* stage of new oil exploration.

For 48 days our volunteers squeezed into a solar survival capsule on Rockall to challenge the UK's right to develop oil there; later, Greenpeace protestors occupied the Stena Dee oil drilling platform. The campaign was hit by a BP lawsuit for damages of £1.4 million, which threatened to bankrupt us.

All this has focused world attention on the craziness of looking for more oil and on the irresponsibility of oil companies. Science indicates *that dangerous climate change* could result even if we burn just a quarter of fossil fuel reserves discovered already. Why look for more?

Isn't it about time, James, that the oil industry accepted the logic of science and stopped trying to stockpile more oil reserves? The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said back in 1995 that a human-made impact on global climate was "discernible". Governments — including the UK's — don't dispute this anymore.

In order to stay within ecologi*cally tolerable levels of climate* change, the carbon pollution put into the atmosphere must be limited to about 5 per cent of all the oil, coal and gas thought to exist, around 25 per cent of existing "reserves". Even burning just the known oil reserves could push the world over the lower "safe" limit identified by scientists advising the UN. We calculate that fossil fuels



James May, left, and Chris Rose

must be phased out on a "carbon budget", which will, on existing rates of use, be exhausted in less than 30 years. So, if there's already too much oil, why look for more?

Yours,
Chris Rose,
Greenpeace Director of the Atlantic Frontier Campaign

Dear Chris,

YOU are right to say that it has been an interesting summer — but not one that has done much to pro*mote progress*.

I should make clear at the outset that concern for the environment is something that motivates us all. The people who work in the oil and gas industry are not all monsters from outer space. We have families, children, friends. The difference between us and you is that we believe these tough questions need to be considered in full context.

Take the economic factors. The UK's oil and gas industry has been one of the mainstays of our economic growth over the last 30 years. We have invested over £150 billion. We have paid more than that in tax to the Government. And 333,000 people now earn their living either directly or indirectly through the oil and gas industry. That is not something that we — or you — should lightly pass up. But to main*tain that position as many of our* North Sea fields mature, we have to look for new reserves.

All would admit the science surrounding climate change is complex. One thing is clear, though. This is a global issue, necessitating a global response.

Reaching agreement across a divided world — between countries that supply and countries that use fuel, between the developed West and those who are on the road to development — will not be easy. But more difficult still will be to per*suade the final users of energy*, the man and woman on the proverbial Clapham omnibus, that they should change the way they use energy.

Because that is the route to managing the issue. Our industry meets demand. It supplies the products that people want, to allow them to live the life they wish to lead.

Yours,
James May
Director-General, UK Offshore Operations Association Limited

Dear James,

LET'S try again. As Heinz Rothermund of Shell put it in May: "Greenpeace raises a key question — how far is it sensible to explore for and develop new hydrocarbon reserves, given that the atmosphere may not be able to cope with the greenhouse gases that will emanate from reserves discovered already?"

Mr Rothermund caused a storm by these remarks and later claimed, unconvincingly, that he had been speaking rhetorically. But what's *your* answer? Oil or fossil fuels as a whole — can the world burn it all? Or don't you, as the oil industry spokesman, know your own mind on this? Your only answer seems to be "maintain the status quo".

You waffle on the subject of climate change. BP's John Browne has been clearer: "The time to con*sider the policy dimensions of climate change is not* when the link between greenhouse gases and climate change is conclusively proven . . . but when the possibility cannot be discounted and is taken seriously by the society of which we are a part. We in BP have reached that point." Not, it seems, UKOOA.

Yours,
Chris

Dear Chris,

IT SEEMS we are simultaneously in agreement — that climate change raises tough questions, and disagreement. We believe the way forward is complex, and you think it is straightforward.

I am glad that you have noted the views of my colleagues, Heinz Rothermund and John Browne, because it demonstrates that the industry has been paying this issue serious attention, not sweeping it aside as you would imply. However, your quotation is selective. Heinz went on to say that the real issue is *global* energy management and that "there is no alternative to the continued use of fossil fuels".

There are tough questions for us which we are addressing, through, for example, reducing our own industrial CO_2 emissions by half per joule of useful energy generated. But there are tough questions for you as well. Like, what will you say to the 330,000 people whose jobs rely on the oil and gas industry? And what will you say to the government that uses the billions in tax revenues to provide hospitals, social services and so on?

And, most importantly, what will you say to those people when the unilateral closure of the UK's industry makes not one jot of difference to the question of climate change, but causes massive economic upheaval as we import all our oil and gas from abroad?

Because that is what will happen. The most difficult question is this: how do you get the end consumers to change their behaviour? How do you influence people who, every day, use the electric hairdrier, drive to work, type on their computer, enjoy the air-conditioning and, maybe, shoot around in diesel-powered dinghies wearing wetsuits made from the same petro-chemicals you would have us cease producing?

Yours sincerely,
James

Dear James,

YOUR own Mori poll showed people distrust the oil industry and, given your evasive replies, I can see why. Can you or can't you burn all the fossil fuels and still save the climate? Of course the answer is "no" and you're scared of answering because it means keeping some oil in the ground.

You are behaving like the nuclear industry. Both thought you could dump your waste at sea — and were defeated. Both try to play the jobs card but neither offers jobs for a modern, ecologically sustainable economy. Energy efficiency creates many more jobs than investment in oil. And for half the cost of the BP Foinaven Field, a BP study shows the public could have cost-competitive solar energy overnight. Japan plans 70,000 solar homes by 2000; Britain has five.

Industry is slow to press the Government to help speed up solar. Why do you keep arguing solar can't be made cost-effective, when we know it can?

For the earth's sake we need a multilateral negotiated regime to phase out fossil fuels. Britain should lead that negotiation and never develop the pristine whale-rich ocean between Rockall and St Kilda as an oil field.

Yours,
Chris

Dear Chris,

YOU say that *we* are being evasive, but you have chosen not to answer the central question.

No-one in the industry disagrees with your desire to reduce emissions. No-one, either, would disagree when you say that we need a multilateral negotiated approach to the whole question.

As Tony Blair recently told Greenpeace, unilaterally stopping production in the UK would mean that "demand for oil would be met from production elsewhere". Why? Because the central issue would not be addressed: how to reduce consumer demand.

We agree that there is an important future role for renewables like solar power. But it has been estimated that it would take 30 million solar panels 100 years to produce the same amount of energy as one Atlantic Margin field. And these panels will not power planes or help produce pharmaceuticals.

A consumer education campaign to reduce energy usage is one that you, with your undoubted PR and publicity skills, would be ideally suited to undertake. I don't think you'll do it though — because most people would not agree with you.

In the end, Chris, this is the very nub. Carry on your pot shots at the oil and gas industry (very popular, but not very effective), or campaign to change public behaviour (highly effective, but extremely unpopular). The choice is all of ours.

Yours,
James

In the debate on August 30 the final letter from Anne-Marie Hutchinson (chair of Reunite, National Council for Abducted Children) read: "I do not agree with your basic tenet on the importance of committed fathers in the lives of children." It should have read: "I do not argue with your basic tenet..."

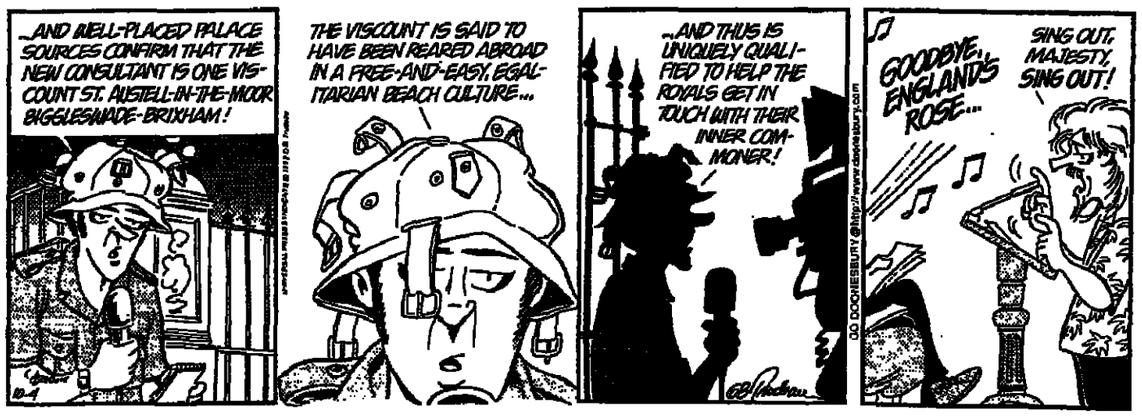
For the first time, Martin Amis has written as a woman. Well, anything to fool the Booker judges.

The Observer

This Sunday we're giving away Prospect, the magazine with politics, essays and argument, including a piece on just what Martin Amis has to do to get a prize.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



هكذا من الاصل

Did she or didn't she? Marilyn was blackmailing the Kennedy brothers, a new book claims. But it is based on phoney papers, critics say. **Mark Honigsbaum** looks at literary hoaxes. **David Selbourne,** far right, explains how he handled a controversial and possibly historical document

Marilyn Monroe with Bobby, left, and Jack Kennedy
PHOTOGRAPH: CECIL STOUGHTON

The pros and the cons

It has been an extraordinary week for historical scoops and an even more extraordinary week for Little, Brown, the New York publishing house. First it emerged that the company was poised to publish a translation by the respected British academic David Selbourne of a hitherto unknown 13th century manuscript, purporting to show that an obscure Italian-Jewish merchant had visited China in 1270, four years before Marco Polo.

Then it transpired that Little, Brown had a possibly even bigger scoop — albeit of a more contemporary nature — on its hands. This time the subject was John F Kennedy and the author was Seymour Hersh, a respected American investigative journalist of My Lai fame.

Hersh had been given documents purporting to prove that Marilyn Monroe had had an affair with JFK and that the Kennedys had paid her money to keep quiet. The documents also purported to prove long-rumoured Kennedy ties to the Chicago mob.

There was just one problem: the documents which formed the cornerstone of Hersh's upcoming book, The Dark Side of Camelot, were transparent fakes, forged on a typewriter that was invented a full decade after the documents were supposedly produced.

Now sceptical academics are asking similarly hard questions about Little, Brown's other big scoop. Is it really credible that David Selbourne's manuscript — a manuscript of considerable historic import if it is genuine — should have lain undiscovered for centuries only to be presented on a plate to a British philosopher living in the Marche area of Italy?

If the account of the manuscript's supposed scribe, Jacob d'Ancona, is genuine, then why has the owner of the 280-page document, Sell bourne's mysterious benefactor, insisted on anonymity? And why does he refuse to show the documents to any one but Selbourne?

No one knows whether the manuscript is a true account written by d'Ancona in his own hand, the work of a later medieval scribe or a modern fake. But if it turns out to be fraudulent it will not be the first time an eminent academic has been duped.

Cod fax of history's hoaxers

Gerd Heidemann, left, who produced the fake Hitler diaries which fooled a supposed expert, and, right, cover of the Protocols Of The Elders Of Zion, the 1905 Tsarist forgery

Hugh Trevor-Roper, the historian and former Master of Peterhouse college, Oxford, now better known as Lord Dacre, will never live down his role in authenticating the 60-volume Hitler Diaries for the Sunday Times in 1983. The diaries turned out to be not the work of the Fuhrer but of a petty criminal from Stuttgart with a passion for Nazi memorabilia.

And since the advent of modern publishing, there have been a host of similar frauds, from the 1905 Tsarist forgery, the Protocols of the Elders of Zion; through Clifford Irving's fake autobiography of billionaire Howard Hughes in 1972; to the more recent Diary of Jack the Ripper, purportedly identifying the killer as wealthy Liverpool cotton merchant, James Maybrick, but more likely the work of a contemporary Liverpudlian down and out, Michael Barrett.

Why, as we approach the end of the 20th century, do these "finds" seem to have grown in frequency, and what does such a trend tell us about the quality of knowledge in our so-called "information age"? The short answer is that publishing is now a lucrative worldwide industry that feeds into other even more lucrative media such as television and film. With this commercialisation of the media has come greater competition for original stories.

The problem is, there are hardly any that haven't already been reported. Add to that our increasing dependence on so-called "experts" and this is fertile ground for hoaxers.

How, for instance, do we distinguish between information on the Internet that is accurate and information that is the product of computer-literate fantasists? In theory we try to seek out reliable channels of information, such as the home pages of broadsheet newspapers, television and radio. But the problem is that even these supposedly "reliable" channels have become debased by commercial pressures.

The New York Times may still only publish "all the news that is fit to print". But for the rest of the industry, it is increasingly a case of publish and be damned.

"The standards of publishing in Britain and America have declined to such a degree that these days it is hard to know what is true and what is a fake," argues Robert Harris, the novelist and author of Faking Hitler, a detailed account of the Hitler Diaries affair. "Look at all these books on UFO abductions and lost religions. I do not think publishers used to produce so much crapulent work. It is all about feeding a gullible market." The surprise is that investigative journalists and academics, who are supposed to be expert at processing information and at documentation, should also sometimes turn out to be so gullible. In the thrill of discovery, normal standards of objectivity and scepticism can unwittingly be suspended, as the author and his collaborators become more or less willing accomplices.

"There is a sort of group psychosis that sets in," says Harris. "Once an author and publisher set down a certain path the will to believe becomes very strong. Quite rational authors become quite irrational."

Often there is also an element of secrecy, usually imposed by the hoaxer, but also sometimes by the publisher keen to protect the scoop from rivals' hands. According to Harris, this secrecy, combined with a sense of urgency or rush, should be the first tell-tale sign. In the case of the Hitler Diaries only Gerd Heidemann, the journalist hired by Stern magazine to purchase the diaries, had access to the source. Trevor-Roper was bounced into making a snap judgment after leafing through the diaries in a Zurich bank vault, surrounded by Stern executives and without being given time to consult other historians. "It was well known that Hitler rarely put pen to paper. The moment he heard that there were 60 diaires, he should have realised how implausible it all was," Harris says. In the event, the sheer amount of bound volumes, coupled with the fact that each page carried a signature purporting to be Hitler's, had the opposite effect.

A similar attention to quantity and detail seems to have convinced the author Shirley Harrison and publisher Smith Gryphon of the authenticity of the Maybrick diaries. Independent tests on the paper and ink have shown that the diaries were almost certainly written at a median date of 1921 and thus could not have been the product of the Ripper's imagination.

In the case of a transparent fake such tests are usually conclusive. The Hitler diaries were on a type of paper that, like the typewriter used to manufacture the documents given to Seymour Hersh, did not exist at the time of the events supposedly recorded by them.

But as Melvin Harris, a professional "fake buster" and expert in historical authentication, points out, clever forgers will go out of their way to obtain blank paper from the period and to use the correct inks. With a little artificial ageing such as baking the manuscript in the oven, it is then relatively simple to fool the experts.

Often the only recourse is to examine the text itself. "You have to look for any historical or chronological anomalies that indicate someone has used a faulty reference book, or else search for idioms and phrasings that wouldn't have been in use at the time," Melvin Harris says.

That is just what scholars have been forced to do in the case of the d'Ancona manuscript. The mysterious owner has refused to subject it to independent scientific testing.

One leading China scholar, Jonathan Spence, the British-born Professor of History at Yale, says that when he began to study David Selbourne's translation he became increasingly uneasy. "The merchant sets out on his voyage with two women, which is very unusual — that sounds like a novelistic device to me. Then, when he arrives at Zaitun, the Chinese town discussed by Marco Polo, he participates openly in public debates which is again enormously unlikely for that period."

In Selbourne's book, the merchant supposedly engages in explicit discussions about the sexual world. "No doubt people did enjoy sexual delights in 13th century China, but not in such a public way or in such loving detail," Spence says.

According to Spence, it is quite possible that Selbourne translated the manuscript in good faith but that it was actually written as an historical novel this century or slightly earlier. Selbourne has no truck with such scepticism, dismissing his fellow academics' doubts as "pettifogging". He suggests that the the book's reception is more the result of professional jealously than uncertainty over its provenance.

"I have just survived an earthquake in the Marche and Jacob and I will survive the pea soupers of academia too," Selbourne says from his home near Urbino, Italy.

But Spence's doubts have hit home, persuading Little, Brown to delay the US publication of City Of Light, at least for the time being. It may be several years, if ever, before we know for sure whether Selbourne was right to place his faith in Jacob and "his" mysterious manuscript.

Truth or dare?

The existence and possession, in private hands, of the manuscript I have translated were first made known to me early in 1990 by a visitor to my home in Urbino.

Several months elapsed before I prevailed upon the owner, who lives in the Italian Marche region, to let me examine and attempt to read the text in his presence. It was not until September 1991, after lengthy discussion of the problems that would be involved in disclosing the manuscript's existence — for both provenance and rights of ownership are unclear — that I was able to begin studying it, always at the owner's home.

As I worked intermittently on the manuscript, I became increasingly aware that I had an extraordinary find — a gift — in my hands, and a responsibility to make its content known whatever difficulties it might cause me. The fact that a Jewish scholar-merchant, Iacobbe [Jacob] d'Ancona, had preceded Marco Polo by a handful of years to the furthest Orient, leaving a brilliant account of his travels and experiences, was of course enough to drive me on.

Equally intriguing was the fact, or tradition, that the manuscript, so I was told, had "remained hidden" within a local Jewish family "for generations" — long before it came into the hands of the present owner. Once I had succeeded in reading it through, I came to the clear conclusion that the principal ground for this was the manuscript's dangerous observations upon religious questions.

The manuscript, bound in creased and discoloured vellum, is 25.5cm tall and 19.5cm wide, and contains 280 leaves, written for the most part on both sides. It is written on clean, fine paper in a small but careful and usually clear running italic hand. No name of a scribe is given.

As to the hitherto unkown (or unrecorded) existence of Jacob d'Ancona's manuscript, for those who know Italy and the condition of its patrimony well, there can be little surprise. I myself do not doubt that, along with so many other Italian works of art, this is merely one "lost" rarity among the rest: works stolen, "diverted", traded or, as I believe in this case, merely held in private hands without the slightest knowledge of it divulged beyond the immediate circle of the owner.

That an owner — from fear of confiscation, theft or loss — should be coy about disclosing a possession is also reasonable in Italian circumstances. In the last few years I have seen a signed presentation copy of Baldassare Castiglione's Il Cortegiano (1528) — written at the Renaissance court of Urbino — mouldering in an out-of-the-way corner of the Marche; and have examined part of a synagogue's ancient archive, kept in cardboard boxes at the home of one of its congregants.

Last December I attended a "world première" of "lost" lute music of the court of the Dukes of Urbino which had been "discovered" in a manuscript on the shelves of the Biblioteca Oliveriana in the Adriatic coastal town of Pesaro.

The owner of Jacob d'Ancona's manuscript changed his mind several times about the wisdom of permitting the book's existence to become known, and made clear that he would probably not permit the book's exact whereabouts to be identified during his lifetime.

I wrestled with my own doubts about translating a manuscript to which others would not have easy access, and even no access at all. It was a difficult choice to make. I eventually took the view that everyone else's interests would be best served by a faithful translation of the text into English, and by my keeping my word to the manuscript's owner.
© *David Selbourne*

This extract is from the Introduction to The City of Light by Jacob d'Ancona, translated and edited by David Selbourne, to be published by Little, Brown on October 23. This book can be bought for a discounted price of £20 (inc p&p) from the Guardian Culture Shop on 0500 600102.

Bullet-proof protector

Why did Peter Mandelson fail to win over the Labour masses this week? **Derek Draper,** who knows him better than most as his former political adviser, offers the Minister without Portfolio some advice

Tony Blair wants compassion with hard edges. The problem for his chief lieutenant is that he is all hard edges and no compassion — or at least that is what much of Labour's grassroots believe. Alastair Campbell is not quite right when he says that this week's National Executive elections were a beauty parade, about personalities not politics: both matter, and Peter Mandelson fell foul of each.

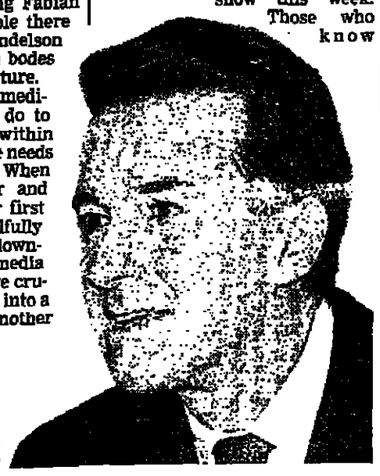
The Minister without Portfolio became worried about the vote a fortnight ago, hearing from Leeds that Denis Healey's long-time agent hadn't voted for him. He told an aide: "If we can't get support from the likes of him we're in real trouble."

The views of activists at Brighton build up into a clear picture of what went wrong. Almost all agree with John Burton, the Sedgefield schoolteacher who discovered Tony Blair, that Mandelson did more than anyone bar Blair to win the election for Labour and take the party out of its wilderness years. But that was not enough. "He doesn't seem to be one of us," one activist said. "I can't think of an issue he cares about," complained another. A south London agent said the party got what it wanted: "To keep him working hard but with a bloody nose."

For a decade, Mandelson has been acting as Labour's bullet-proof vest, starting as Neil Kinnock's spokesman in the turbulent mid-eighties. It wasn't a role he chose, but one he was given.

Even now he acts as a lightning conductor for Labour's present leader. He is uncompromising about his politics and so polarises opinion. His problem is you either love him or hate him. There are no votes to be garnered from a middle ground. He has assiduously built up a following among the party's ultra-loyal young Labour cadres. Every year he is asked to host the Young Fabian reception. Several people there admit to voting for Mandelson and nobody else, which bodes well for his long-term future.

But what, more immediately, does he need to do to bolster his standing within the party? For a start, he needs to follow his own advice. When he advised Tony Blair and Gordon Brown on their first NEC campaigns he skilfully managed expectations downwards, limited their media exposure and would have crucified them if they'd got into a public row with either another politician or, God forbid, a journalist. Spin doctor, heal thyself. On a personal level, he must let people see beneath the hard shell. Vulnerability does not always mean weakness, as he began to show this week. Those who know Mandelson agree with Blair that he is a "great guy" and his friends do love him. He's an active godfather to four children. He's also won over his constituents in Hartlepool. Periodically journalists go up there to concoct "we hate our aloof MP" stories. They always return with empty notebooks.



The moment of truth... Peter Mandelson at the Labour Party Conference in Brighton this week. How could he fail to be elected on to the NEC?

So why does none of this come across? Partly because it doesn't suit the media myth. The Prince of Darkness can't have shades of grey, or patches of white, but it is also due to Mandelson himself. One former colleague says: "His problem is not that he doesn't suffer fools gladly, but that he doesn't suffer anyone gladly."

Mandelson has made it into the political big-time. It is time for him to relax, cut some slack, even let his standards and expectations slip a bit. Mix a little of the "rare" off-duty Peter into his public personae.

He also needs a real job. Blair should, and I'm sure will, promote him in his first reshuffle. But let him have a department to run, then he would have issues to care about and decisions to take. Party members (and voters) would start to see him as a politician, not as an apparatchik.

He'd have less time to advise the Prime Minister, of course. Even his foes admit that no one could do his current co-ordinating, presentation and troubleshooting job better. It would mean, I suggested to Mandelson when we discussed his future last week, that mistakes would be made that he could have prevented — the Government might even become less popular as a result.

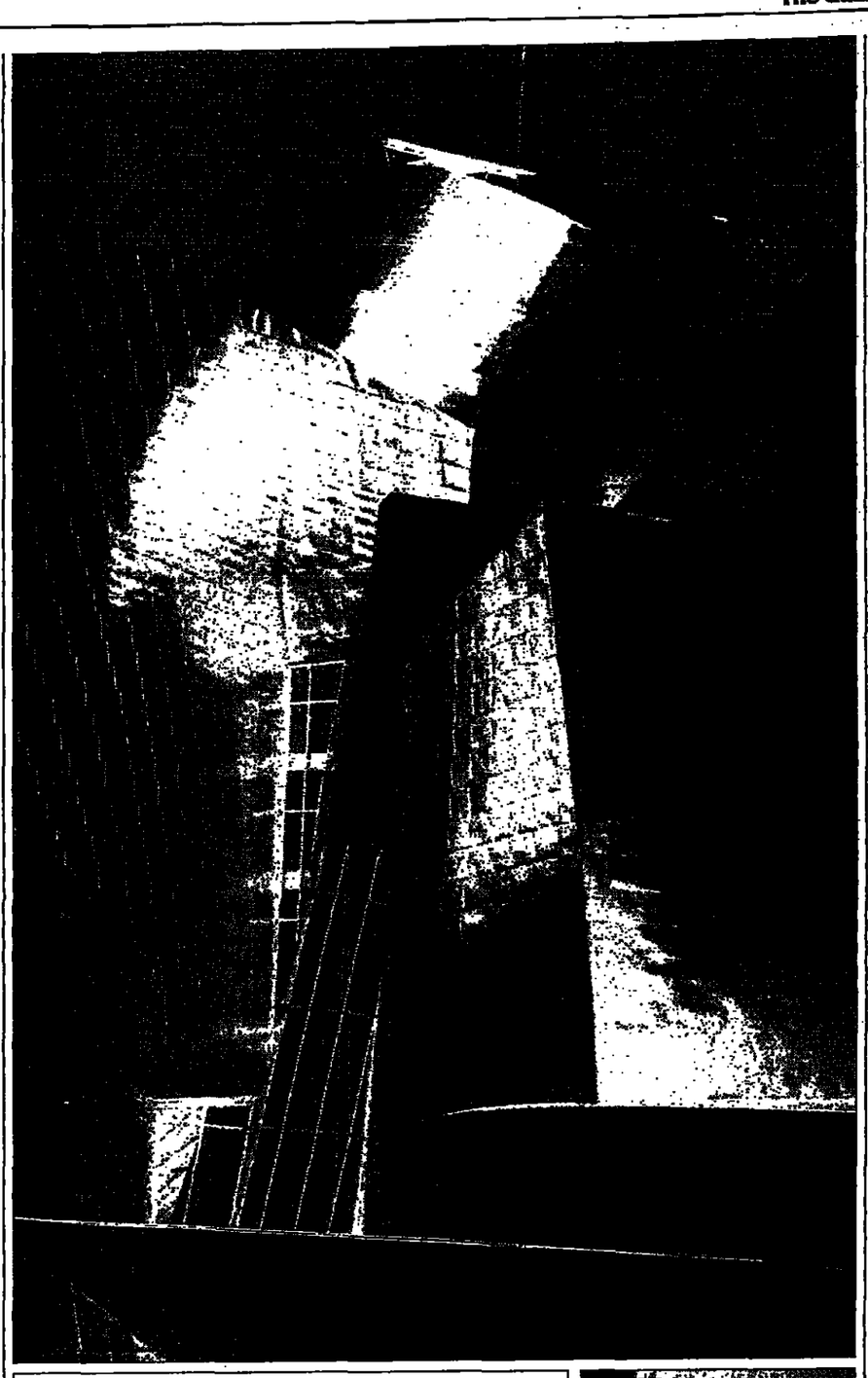
He looked at me aghast. The very idea of allowing that to happen appalled him. It is for that very simple reason that Labour's members got it wrong this summer. Even at his darkest hour, when the subject is how his own career can be saved, his instinct is to put the interests of party and Prime Minister before himself. If the party really knew him, they would be ashamed. He should be ashamed they don't know him better.

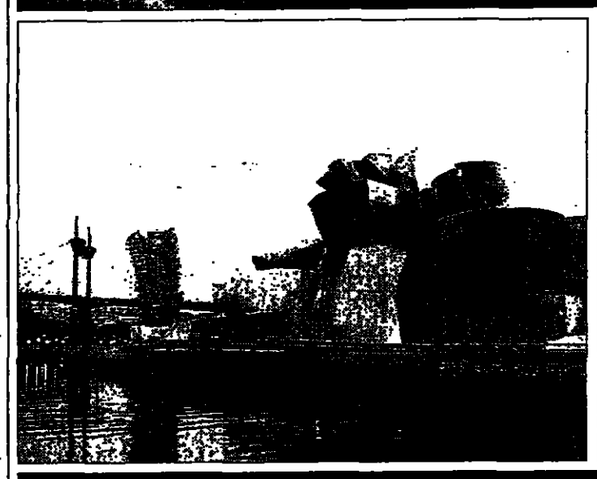
Derek Draper is author of Blair's 100 Days, published by Faber & Faber

arts

Opponents call it McGuggenheim, as if it were simply flogging burgers. But why has New York's leading art museum sold its name to a run-down Spanish sea port? **Dan Glaister** reports from Bilbao

Deal of the decade





Some like it not ... Bilbao's beautiful new Guggenheim Museum (left) has even been compared to Marilyn Monroe. But unemployed locals are less impressed by costly touches like titanium cladding
PHOTOGRAPHS: JACQUES PAVLOVSKY/SYGMA; JOSE MANUEL NAVIA/NETWORK

It is a startling sight. Rearing out of the post-industrial gloom of Bilbao, Frank Gehry's construction for the city's new Guggenheim Museum has depleted the superlative banks since it emerged from the wasteland beside the river Nervión. The architecture critic of the New York Times recently proclaimed the building to be the reincarnation of *Marilyn Monroe*.

To call it a building, one senses, is to do it a disservice. To call it a work of art, in Gehry's words, would be arrogant. But it is a unique structure, stretching, curving, gleaming and glinting its way alongside the river before dipping under a road bridge and popping up triumphantly on the other side. The tower that emerges on the wrong side of the bridge is a deliberate thumbing of the nose at our notions of structure and function. It serves no purpose other than an aesthetic one. It is a piece of balancing design that has the engineers working on the project bemused. "We're going to have to pin the architect down about the tower." I overhear one mutter in a restaurant close to the site. "He can't decide what to do with it."

That there should still be this misunderstanding between architect and engineers says much about the project. The Guggenheim Bilbao Museoa, as the portal proclaims it, is a building that should never have been built. It was, said foes and even some friends, a misconceived flight of fancy, the wild imagining of a power-crazed, cash-strapped New York museum administrator with little knowledge of art and less of architecture. It was vanity construction, a loss-leader exploiting the complexes and the fragilities of a vulnerable Basque national identity. It was the temple of art as franchise: the first golden arch in the construction of Planet McGuggenheim. It was, in short, a project that was doomed, a project that would humiliate the Guggenheim, one of the great names in American art, and send it sloping back to New York.

More harmfully, perhaps, it would sink the attempts of the Basques to raise themselves to the status of a modern nation, to imitate the Catalans, who used the 1992 Olympics as a springboard to cultural and economic regeneration, and to wipe away the stain of terrorism with which the word Basque is invariably associated.

But that is not the way it happened. Instead, a remarkable piece of architecture, a remarkable piece of art, has been raised in Bilbao, a gleaming affirmation of millennial confidence and sensibilities. Its 10,500 square metres of exhibition space is greater than the combined space of the three existing Guggenheim galleries (two in New York, one in Venice). Bilbao's Guggenheim has $50 million to buy works of art, as well as access to the New York's permanent collection of contemporary art. By the time it opens on October 19, the project will have cost $118 million, including $84 million for the building.

Remarkable statistics, and the glittering building would seem to have an equally glittering future. But the most remarkable aspect of the project remains its very existence. Just what is this temple to contemporary art doing amid the grime of Bilbao? Why should the Solomon R Guggenheim Foundation, with its treasure of contemporary art to offer, settle on Bilbao as the home for its new European outpost? If you were to select a home for your showpiece museum, would you really go to the faded glory of a former centre of shipbuilding on the Bay of Biscay?

The explanation has a lot to do with money, and little to do with art.

The unlikely relationship between the Guggenheim and Bilbao started in 1990, when Thomas Krens, the larger-than-life director of the Guggenheim Foundation, hit upon the idea of buying his way out of the financial crisis confronting the foundation. With debts of $55 million, the Guggenheim was facing embarrassing headlines in the American press. The deficit was partly incurred when Krens embarked on a programme of selling works from the Guggenheim's collection to finance the purchase of the Panza collection. This seemed to be a glittering prize, but the provenance of many of its jewels was questioned by the art market. This failed to deter Krens, who carried on with a programme of disposal and purchase, swapping old for new, known for unknown.

With debts rising, the development of the Guggenheim's second home among the galleries and dealers of SoHo in downtown Manhattan had stalled. Krens, aware of the treasures remaining in the basement of the Guggenheim's Frank Lloyd Wright home on Fifth Avenue, decided to realise his assets. For $30 million, the Guggenheim would lend its name and its collection to a foreign institution. In exchange, the Guggenheim Foundation would have overall control of the institution. The Guggenheim was to turn itself into a franchise operation.

At that time Krens knew little of Bilbao. He had a far more glamorous location in mind: Salzburg. But there his efforts to strike a deal ran into opposition from a local government concerned that the cost would be too hard to sell to its citizens. Then a New York-based director of Madrid's Reina Sofia museum mentioned Bilbao. Krens had little idea of the city's location or history, but let himself be taken there in April 1991.

This is a remarkable piece of architecture, a gleaming affirmation of millennial confidence

For the Basques, the arrival of the big man was both timely and reassuring. Bilbao had missed the 1992 regeneration train, when Barcelona hosted the Olympics, Seville the World Expo and Madrid became European City of Culture. It is possibly the least glamorous of the Spanish regional capitals, its heavy industry left behind by the emergence of the "tiger economies" of south-east Asia in the eighties. But the Basques had a plan: Bilbao 2000 would see an attempt to regenerate the city, making it the centre of the service economy. A programme of *grands projets* based around the derelict riverside running through the city would lead Bilbao into this future. Resources were ploughed into a new metro system, commissioned from Sir Norman Foster. A new terminal for the rather dowdy airport and an enormous congress hall were planned. Santiago Calatrava was commissioned to design a footbridge over the Nervión.

And then Krens arrived. The Basques fell over themselves to impress him, laying a red carpet on the tarmac of Bilbao airport, flying him by helicopter around the city to a lavish lunch in the countryside, then taking him to Guernica to see the site of the inspiration for Picasso's painting, before going on to a meeting with José Antonio Ardanza, president of the Basque country. Krens must have wondered what was going on. Almost a whole day in the Basque country with nothing more than a glimpse of the city in which he was being invited to set up his museum. There was a good reason. The Basques were keen for Krens to come away with a favourable impression of Bilbao's culture and sophistication rather than its grime and politics.

Krens was eventually shown the proposed site for the museum — the old corn exchange, La Alhóndiga. He wasn't impressed, but he and the Basques signed a statement of intent, to justify the trip more than anything. But in Madrid, on his way back to New York, Krens learnt that the Basques were serious, that they had the $20 million he wanted, and that they had the political will to push the plan through.

Krens returned to Bilbao in May 1991 with Gehry, whom he wanted to build the new Guggenheim. Krens, with a $20 million commitment from the Basques in his pocket, decided to see how far he could push them. The Alhóndiga, he and Gehry declared, was not good enough for the sort of institution both parties wanted to create. Why not build a new museum? Here legend takes over: Krens, out jogging in Bilbao, looked down from a bridge across the Nervión and saw the ideal site for his museum, next to the river and opposite the university. He has described this moment as an "epiphany". In a rare moment of discord between architect and impresario, Gehry claimed that it was he who found the site, going up into the hills overlooking the city and spotting the ideal position.

An architectural competition was organised by Krens and the Basques, with Heinreich Klotz, who had helped Krens present his plans for a Guggenheim in Salzburg, as final arbiter. Three architects were invited to compete: Arata Isozaki, the Japanese architect who had designed the Guggenheim extension in SoHo, the Austrian practice Coop Himmelblau, and Gehry. They were given three weeks and $10,000 to come up with a plan that incorporated the road bridge. The competition, which was not publicised, was won by Gehry.

More than six years later, Gehry's building is preparing for its grand opening. Sitting in the museum's boardroom, surrounded by Athena-style posters of the classics of contemporary art, Juan Ignacio Vidarte, general director of the Guggenheim Bilbao Foundation, skilfully deflects criticism of the project. He claims not to have read one of the most critical studies of the project, Story Of A Seduction, by the US-based Basque academic Joseba Zulaika. A man who has been involved with the project since its inception, Vidarte is courteous and patient, taking time to talk through the problems facing the museum but always emphasising the positive.

Yes, he says, it is surprising that the Guggenheim should be in Bilbao. "We Basques are famous for being proud of ourselves, but we're not so proud as to think that this was the obvious choice for the Guggenheim. One of the more attractive parts of this story was that it was partly led by chance. At the right time and the right place, these two interests coming from very different positions converged."

No, he says, local objections that the entire cultural budget has been diverted to this one project are shortsighted. The titanium-coated building is resented by many Basques, who see a cultural palace covered in one of the most expensive materials available as a snub in a region where unemployment is almost 25 per cent. "I admit it's big money," says Vidarte, "but in relative terms it's not a big amount of money from the public budget. If it doesn't promote other activities around it, I will be very surprised."

Three months before the opening, however, there were still problems facing the museum. Not least of these, and emblematic of the strange priorities behind the project, was the absence of an artistic director. In the scheme of things, this has not mattered too much. The head of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao Foundation ultimately answers to the director of the Solomon R Guggenheim Foundation in New York: Thomas Krens. In the absence of an artistic director in Bilbao, the Basques have turned to Krens for guidance.

And then there is the question of Guernica, possibly the most famous piece of "local" art. Guernica is held by the Reina Sofia museum in Madrid. Part of the coincidence of interests between the Basques and Krens was a desire to bring Guernica to the Basque country. Krens felt sure that the clout of the Guggenheim, with its extensive collection of works by Picasso, would help to bring Guernica to Bilbao. The Basques felt that, with their new museum in place, the arguments in favour of its return to its spiritual home would be overwhelming. But they didn't count on the bloody-mindedness of the Reina Sofia or of Claude Picasso, protector of the Picasso estate and a member of the board of the Reina Sofia. In July, the Reina Sofia ruled out the loan of the painting to the Guggenheim, claiming it was too fragile to transport.

"We think it's a mistake," says Vidarte. "It's mainly political. The Reina Sofia does not want to lend the main attraction of its collection, even for a short period."

With or without Guernica, the museum will open on time and on budget at a glitzy ceremony later this month. It will be Krens's night. And why not? The American can feel happy with himself: the Basques have given the Guggenheim Foundation in New York $20 million to help it repay its debts; the Guggenheim Foundation has a bright, spanking new museum in Europe bearing its name; and the Guggenheim Foundation has a way of moving its collections out of the vaults and into galleries. Art as commodity, museum as franchise. It could just catch on.

SHOOTING STARS

Rising: Martin Bell

Up ... The BBC war correspondent weathers Bosnia, but it's nothing to his battles as a knight in white linen squaring up to sleaze.
Up ... The slings and arrows of outrageous Christine Hamilton fail to derail the Bell bandwagon, and our hero romps to victory in Tatton.
And away ... Channel 4 is turning Bell's heroics into a comedy drama, Mr White Goes To Westminster. Bell's characteristically low-key response: 'As long as people are clear it's only a story, I don't mind.'

Falling: Jeffrey Archer

Going ... Dodgy novels, fibbing about his personal history, a scandal with a prostitute, deputy chairmanship of the Tories, more dodgy novels, and strongly denied allegations of financial indelicacies ...
Going ... A ropey 'novelography', high-profile touting of himself as candidate for mayor of London, rent-a-quote punditry after Di's death ...
Gone ... Archer is found to have a hefty stake in the Teletubby merchandising empire: a strangely fitting way for the La-La Lord of Weston-super-Mare to add to his fortune.

YOUR MUSIC OF THE MILLENNIUM

The Guardian, Channel 4 and HMV have launched the biggest poll ever to find the greatest 100 albums of the 20th Century. We're asking everybody in the country to vote in the nationwide poll. Every Guardian reader will be entered into a grand draw with a chance to win 100 albums of their choice from HMV. Below are the choices from a member of East 17:

TONI MORTIMER

1. Adam And The Ants: Kings Of The Wild Frontier
2. Bon Jovi: Cross Roads
3. Fleetwood Mac: Greatest Hits
4. Bob Marley: Legend
5. Public Enemy: Fear Of A Black Planet
6. Michael Jackson: Dangerous
7. Janet Jackson: Janet
8. UB40: Labour Of Love
9. John Lennon: Imagine
10. Madness: Complete Madness

Send your completed form to: Music of the Millennium, PO Box 67, Worksop, Notts S80 1ZX

FIRST CHOICE
Artist _____
Title _____
SECOND CHOICE
Artist _____
Title _____
THIRD CHOICE
Artist _____
Title _____

Name _____
Address _____
_____ Postcode _____
Daytime tel. no _____
Age (please tick as appropriate): under 18 ☐ 19-34 ☐ 35-54 ☐ 55+ ☐

Terms and Conditions: 1. One winner gets 100 albums of their choice, 10 runners up get £100 of HMV gift vouchers. Winners will be drawn at random from all entries received by 24/10/97. 2. Winners will be notified by post or phone by 1/11/97 and may be involved in publicity if required. 3. No cash alternative is offered. 4. If you have any queries about the promotion please write to: The Promoter: HMV UK Limited, Film House, 142 Wardour Street, London W1V 4LN. 4. Please state if you do not wish to receive information from the Guardian or companies screened by us. G

In association with The Guardian

HMV 4

Sit down. **Caroline Sullivan** has shocking news about Radio 1

They're playing My Tune

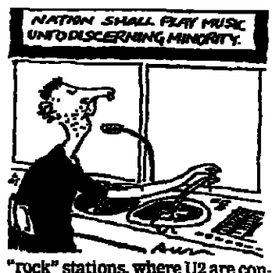
Provocations

It was bound to end in tears. Mark Radcliffe and Lard were never going to possess the mass appeal of Chris Evans. They knew it themselves. The only one who didn't seems to have been Radio 1 controller Matthew Bannister, who appointed them.

That Bannister was willing to take the chance says much about Radio 1 these days. Mark and Lard may have lost 600,000 listeners, but they're the best breakfast presenters the station ever had. Their deadpan wit is perfect for early morning, when you're not up to a full-frontal Evans-style assault. They even care about music.

Bannister's experiment may have failed in the ratings, but he can take consolation from the knowledge that he presides over the best Radio 1 ever. Before he became controller four years ago, Radio 1 was a joke, a wasteland of bearded ego-merchants who, when forced to to play a record, invariably reached for George Michael or Simply Red. Dance music? Only if it was in the top 10. Our Tune was the station's most popular feature, and Steve Wright's fictional "characters", like Gervaise the gay hairdresser, ran a close second. The sole bright light, John Peel, was stuck in the graveyard slot.

What would have happened if Bannister hadn't been a new-music fan determined to purge the old-style presenters? The short answer is that it would still be awash with Dave Lee Travises. The ratings would probably be higher (five million listeners tuned out within two years of Bannister's arrival), bands like Pulp would still be marginalised, and the Status Quo Affair (wherein Radio 1 refused to air the old buffers' records), wouldn't have occurred. And it would still be comparable to American



"rock" stations, where U2 are considered alternative. Instead, Radio 1's music policy is the most adventurous in the country. With the exception of the new indie station XFM and some of the pirates, it is the only place to hear important new music. It more or less launched Britpop, on Steve Lamacq's and Jo Whiley's Evening Session, and will have a substantial hand in whatever's next.

There have inevitably been a few mistakes. One was the hiring of MTV VJ Lisa I'Anson in the apparent belief a black female would up the station's cred. She turned out to be a whoop-and-holler jock of the old school, and her replacement by Whiley came not a moment too soon. I'Anson's predecessor, Emma Freud, one of Bannister's first appointments, was even worse. Moreover, the almost fanatical commitment to new music means that you'll rarely hear anything made before 1990. But the station has learned from its mistakes, and new employees, like former rock writer Mary-Anne Hobbs, seem to be chosen on the basis of ability and are left to play what they fancy.

It's a national service to be proud of. That's why the hiring of Zoe Ball is so ominous. Pairing the kiddie-TV starlet with Kevin Greening (catchphrase: "My name is Kevin") aggravates the matter. The implication is that Radio 1 is desperate to claw back listeners — and it probably will. It will be interesting to see whether this gruesome twosome play down the importance of music and, heaven help us, restore pre-Bannister values.

At least Radcliffe has only been moved to afternoons. And he's probably not complaining. As he once said, he hates getting up early.

هكذا من الاصل

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Racing

Arc backers can draw on Peintre

Chris Hawkins expects French favourite to repel British at Longchamp tomorrow

A YEAR ago Helissio looked one of the greats when making all to run away with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe but, like a lot of racehorses hailed as superstars, he has not lived up to a sky-high reputation.

That, of course, may not be *his fault*. A combination of factors — poor placing by his trainer, indifferent jockeyship and perhaps over-hyping by the media — has resulted in a season of anti-climax but tomorrow at Longchamp he has the chance to put the record straight.

Coincidentally like last year he is drawn five, a stalls position which will give him every chance to jump out, secure the rails and make the best of his way home.

Nothing got near him last year when he beat the richly talented Pilsudski by five lengths with Oscar Schindler and Swain third and fourth.

The difference now is that he will be ridden by Dominique Boeuf, instead of Olivier Peslier, and that everyone is alive to his game plan.

Allowing him to dictate will be suicide for the other runners and, as in the King George at Ascot when Kingfisher Mill took him on, it will be in the interests of all if he is harrassed and dogged from the start.

There is a possibility that Elie Lellouche, *his* trainer, could instruct Boeuf to hold him up. Helissio has won coming from behind but Boeuf had a nightmare when trying to do this in the French Derby last year and it was that which lost him the ride.

Peslier took over and Helissio went from strength to strength but the French champion jockey is now on Peintre Celebre, a colt with a wonderful turn of foot; a strength, however, which can also be an Achilles heel.

We saw this in the Prix Niel three weeks ago when Peslier, holding up Peintre Celebre for his famed late burst, was unable to get him off the rail in time to catch Rajpoute.

Peintre Celebre flew when he saw daylight giving some insight into just what a sensational *galloper he is* but, drawn on the rails at number two, Peslier could again be looking for room at the vital stage.

Pilsudksi is probably the toughest horse in the race. He is renowned for his battling qualities and in a one-to-one situation you would back him to wear down any opponent. Last year he was never given the chance to get to grips with Helissio but I fancy Mick Kinane will be keen to join battle soon after turning into the straight this time.

At Leopardstown in the Irish Champion recently Pilsudski kicked aside high-class opposition with disdain and even though he is a five-year-old there is no evidence *of any deterioration setting* in.

Oscar Schindler is another five-year-old who showed his well-being recently with a comprehensive victory in the Irish St Leger. He, or rather his jockey Cash Asmussen, was caught out by the front-running tactics of Helissio last year and came from last at halfway to get within a short-neck of Pilsudski at the line.

Surprisingly Asmussen has again been entrusted with the ride rather than Stephen Craine who did an impeccable job in the Leger.

Rae Guest as a jockey knew what it was like to be passed over on the big occasion and nothing would give him a greater thrill than to make his mark by training My Emma to win tomorrow.

My Emma, a half-sister to Classic Cliche, was one of the best three-year-old fillies around last autumn when winning the Prix Vermeille and her whole campaign has been geared towards the Arc this year. She won the Yorkshire Oaks impressively and having recovered from a fall recently must have a great each-way chance.

Godolphin run both Predappio and Swain who finished fourth last year but came into his own when beating Pilsudksi and Helissio in the King George at Ascot in July. Soft ground brought his abundant stamina into play that day and it will be in his interests if Predappio were to take on Helissio from the start.

Tactics are going to be crucial but I believe Peintre Celebre (3.20) will be up to the task.

Big race field — BBC2

3.20 PRIX L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE
1m 4f £12,564 (18 declared)

1 (7) 40-531 POSIDONAS (17) (D) P Cole 5-9-5 — T Quinn 77
2 (3) -54114 STEWARD (21) (CD) D Sepulchre 4-9-5 — S Guillot 75
3 (18) -56252 NOTTIN' LEICA DANE (21) J E Hammond 5-9-5 — G Mosse 76
4 (8) 0-2233 LE DESTIN (21) P Demercastel 4-9-5 — T Gillet 81
5 (10) -23011 BUSY FLIGHT (23) (D) B Hills 4-9-5 — M Hills 80
6 (11) 1-2103 PREDAPPIO (28) (D) S bin Suroor 4-9-5 — J Reid 82
7 (13) 43-213 SWAIN (17) (CD) (BF) S bin Suroor 5-9-5 — L Dettori 88
8 (12) 0-2531 OSCAR SCHINDLER (15) (D) K Prendergast 5-9-5 — C Asmussen 88
9 (15) -32121 PILSUDSKI (22) (D) M Stoute 5-9-5 — M Kinane ●90
10 (17) /52221 YOKOHAMA (21) (CD) Mme C Head 6-9-5 — O Doleuze 76
11 (5) 3-1132 HELISSIO (28) (CD) (BF) E Lellouche 4-9-5 — D Boeuf 88
12 (14) 131-31 MY EMMA (48) (CD) R Guest 4-9-2 — D Holland 88
13 (2) 3-1112 PEINTRE CELEBRE (21) (C) (D) (BF) A Fabre 3-8-11 — O Peslier 87
14 (9) 1361 EBADIYLA (84) (D) J Oxx 3-8-8 — J Murtagh 84
15 (1) 2121 BORGIA (28) (D) B Schutz 3-8-8 — K Fallon 84
16 (6) 1113 QUE BELLE (48) H Remmert 3-8-8 — K Woodburn 80
17 (16) -11031 QUEEN MAUD (21) (CD) J De Roualle 3-8-8 — T Jarnet 78
18 (4) 3-3232 GAZELLE ROYALE (21) J E Hammond 3-8-8 — M Roberts 78

Betting: 5-2 Peintre Celebre, 7-2 Pilsudski, Helissio, 8-1 Swain, 10-1 My Emma, 14-1 Oscar Schindler, 16-1 Borgia, 20-1 Busy Flight, Queen Maud, 33-1 Ebadiyla, Predappio.

FORM GUIDE - Posidonas: Held up, headway 2f out, led well inside last out, all out, won by sht-hd from Arabian Story at Newbury 1m 3f Listed, Gd-Fm, with **Swain** (gave 7lb), held up in rear, headway half a mile out, led 1f out, kept on, 3rd btn sht-hd & sht-hd. **Busy Flight:** Soon led, settled up with pace, quickened to lead again 2f out, pushed clear, easily beat Memorise by 3l at Doncaster 1m 4f Listed, Gd-Fm. **Oscar Schindler:** Settled in midfield, good headway 4f out, led 1½f out, ran on well to beat Persian Punch 2l at The Curragh 1m 6f Gp 1 Irish St Leger, Gd-Sft. **Pilsudski:** Held up, smooth progress 3f out, led 2f out, quickened clear, eased inside last, won easily by 4l from Desert King at Leopardstown 1m 2f Gp 1, Gd. **Yokohama:** Made all, hard ridden 1f out, ran on well, beat Nothin' Leica Dane (levels), tracked leader, bustled up 3f out, ran on one pace 2f out, kept on, by 1l with Le Destin (levels), held up, ran on well final furlong, 3rd btn 1½l and **Steward** (levels), held up, not clear run from over 2f out, pushed through inside final furlong, ran on one pace, finished 4th, btn 2l. **Helissio:** Settled in behind over inadequate distance, third straight, led 2f out to just over 1f out, ran on one pace, second to Spinning World at Longchamp 1m Gp 1, Gd. **My Emma:** Travelled well in rear, smooth headway 2f out, quickened up to lead well inside final furlong, readily beat Whitewater Affair by 3l at York 1m 4f Gp 1, Gd. **Peintre Celebre:** Held up, fourth straight, not clear run from 2f out to approaching last furlong, unluckily beaten nk by Rajpoute at Longchamp 1m 4f Gp 2, Gd. **Borgia:** Held up, headway on inside 4f out, led 1f out, hung left, drawn out, beat Luso 1½l with **Predappio** (gave 15lb), disputed lead early, led well over 1f out, no extra, finished 3rd, btn 2l.

Richard the first . . . Haami (right) and Richard Hills prove easy winners of yesterday's Somerville Tattersalls Stakes PHOTO: TREVOR JONES

Prince to deny Cambridgeshire rivals

Ron Cox

GIVEN that it is one of the hardest handicaps in the Flat racing calendar, today's Tote Cambridgeshire at Newmarket has been remarkably kind to punters in recent years. Four of the last five winners have defied 5lb penalties, with solid handicap form proving a sound basis for success.

If recent trends hold true supporters of Prince Of Denial should get a good run for their money.

A progressive three-year-old, penalised 5lb for his victory in a decent handicap at Newbury last month, David Arbuthnot's colt is at the top of a short list comprising Sandmoor Chambray, Pasternak and Epic Stand.

The ability to quicken off a strong pace is necessary in a race like the Cambridgeshire, and Prince Of Denial showed a smart turn of foot to win a 20-runner race at Newbury in only his fourth start in a handicap.

An injury sustained at Lingfield in May kept Prince Of Denial sidelined for more than two months during the summer. He has returned looking better than ever and is one of the least exposed of today's 36 runners.

After walking the course yesterday, the connections of Pasternak are satisfied that the ground will not be too fast for their Magnet Cup winner, who is reported in tip-top shape.

Pasternak travelled well throughout the York race, suggesting this furlong-shorter trip is unlikely to prove on the sharp side. If he gets the run of the race again, Pasternak should go close off just a 6lb higher mark.

Tim Easterby produced Jo Mell in superb shape to win at Ascot last weekend, with the help of the draw, admittedly, and the Malton trainer's Sandmoor Chambray comes here at the very top of his form.

The six-year-old was not disgraced when runner-up in a Listed race at Ayr last time. Judging by the manner in which he acccounted for Danish Rhapsody at Epsom before that, Sandmoor Chambray is another penalised runner with a great chance.

The same applies to Epic Stand, who threaded his way through a large field at Doncaster to win by half a length. He looks a likelier type for the race than the Ramsdens' other contender, Southerly Wind.

The best long-shot might be Secret Spring, who ran well for a long way in the race last year, but Prince Of Denial (3.35) and Pasternak look the pick.

On the subject of penalties, the 6lb extra Reams Of Verse picked up for her Oaks victory may prove her undoing in the Sun Chariot Stakes.

At the weights she looks vulnerable against Dust Dancer, who had beaten the Oaks runner-up, Gazelle Royale, at Deauville before running out of stamina in the Prix Vermeille.

Reams Of Verse may have problems giving 6lb to One So Wonderful (2.55), whose belated seasonal debut could not have been more impressive. With the Luca Cumani team in full flow, this one-time 1,000 Guineas hope can confirm the promise of her eight-length Sandown win.

Sandicliffe (5.20), who has returned to form with a vengeance, is worth an interest in the Links Handicap. She was desperately unlucky from a poor draw at Yarmouth last time.

Newmarket Jackpot card with form guide and ratings

	RON COX	TOP FORM
1.50	Flawless	Flawless
2.20	Grazia	Jilted
2.55	One So Wonderful	Reams of Verse (nap)
3.35	Prince of Denial	Al Azhar
4.10	Jiyush	Double Eclipse
4.45	Hakeem	Monte Lemos
5.20	Sandicliffe (nap)	Sandicliffe

Galloping track of 2¼m with right-hand bend at halfway. Straight course of 1¼m.
Going: Good to Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: No advantage.
Long distance travellers: Parisian Lady (1.50) A Newcombe, Devon, 254 miles.
Seven day winners: 3.35 Gulf Shaadi.
Blinkered first time: 2.20 Jilted. **Visored:** 3.35 Angel Chimes; 5.20 Gain Line.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J, Jumps.

1.50 OH SO SHARP STAKES 2YO
7f £9,360 (8 declared)

101 (1) 203310 Diamond White (42) (B) G Bravery 8-13 — D R McCabe 87
102 (7) 001 Amabel (15) (D) I Balding 8-9 — M Hills 88
103 (8) 2101 Dazilyn Lady (32) P Harris 8-9 — K Darley 87
104 (5) 12 Flawless (23) (D) M Prescott 8-9 — G Duffield ●90
105 (3) 21 Name of Love (29) (D) D Loder 8-9 — K Fallon 86
106 (4) 13 Nanoushka (30) (BF) R Hannon 8-9 — Paul Eddery 85
107 (6) 1142 Parisian Lady (32) (BF) A Newcombe 8-9 — G Hind 85
108 (2) 10 Shohrah (44) S bin Suroor 8-9 — R Hills 88

Betting: 5-2 Flawless, 4-1 Shohrah, 9-2 Dazilyn Lady, 7-1 Parisian Lady, 8-1 Name Of Love, Nanoushka, 10-1 Amabel, 12-1 Diamond White.

2.20 E.B.F. EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES 2YO
6f £5,208 (10 declared)

201 (8) Alasreej B Hills 8-11 — R Hills —
202 (10) Court Lane D Loder 8-11 — R Cochrane —
203 (1) Enchant M Stoute 8-11 — J Reid —
204 (6) Grazia M Prescott 8-11 — G Duffield —
205 (4) 020228 Jilted (23) R Hannon 8-11 — Dane O'Neill ★ ●90
206 (2) 0 Glia (26) M Tompkins 8-11 — D Biggs —
207 (3) 4 Sassy Lady (44) C Dwyer 8-11 — J Fortune 85
208 (7) 0 Sixpence (24) G Wragg 8-11 — M Hills —
209 (5) 4 Sky Red (148) M Bell 8-11 — T Quinn 80
210 (9) Worth The Effort M Tompkins 8-11 — M Henry (3) —

Betting: 5-2 Enchant, 3-1 Alasreej, 5-1 Court Lane, 6-1 Jilted, 10-1 Sassy Lady, 12-1 Grazia, Sky Red.

2.55 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS SUN CHARIOT STAKES — CH4
1m 2f £33,024 (8 declared)

301 (5) 1-6114 Reams of Verse (45) (D) (BF) H Cecil 3-9-0 — K Fallon ●90
302 (2) -20302 Fatefully (14) E Dunlop 4-8-13 — M Hills 84
303 (4) 514110 Dust Dancer (28) (D) J Dunlop 3-8-8 — T Quinn 89
304 (7) 17 Kool Kat Katie (42) D Loder 3-8-8 — R Cochrane 87
305 (1) 06-548 Mrs Miniver (19) P Kelleway 3-8-8 — J Fortune 78
306 (8) 1-1 One So Wonderful (38) L Cumani 3-8-8 — J Reid 89
307 (6) -00421 Sarayir (49) (C) (D) W Hern 3-8-8 — R Hills 87
308 (3) 1304 Ukraine Venture (14) (D) S Woods 3-8-8 — K Darley 76

Betting: 6-4 Reams Of Verse, 5-2 One So Wonderful, 4-1 Kool Kat Katie, 13-2 Dust Dancer, 8-1 Sarayir, 20-1 Fatefully, 33-1 Ukraine Venture, 150-1 Mrs Miniver.

FORM GUIDE - Reams Of Verse: Failed to stay when tracked leaders, challenged 3f out, soon hard ridden, beaten over 1f out, 4th of 8, 5l behind My Emma at York 1m 4f Gr 1, Gd. **Fatefully:** Always prominent, led 3f to 2f out, one pace, 2nd of 5, 4l behind Bin Rosie at Newbury 1m stks, Gd-Fm. **Dust Dancer:** Prominent till weakened over 1f out, 7th of 9, 5l behind Queen Maud at Longchamp 1m 4f Grp 1, Gd. **Kool Kat Katie:** Strong run to lead over 1f out, kept on well, won at Deauville 1m Listed, Gd, beating Basse Besogne by 1l. **Mrs Miniver:** Always prominent, led over 3f out to over 2f out, weakened 1f out, 8th of 11, 11l behind Flagship at Sandown 1m 2f 3y mdn, Gd. **One So Wonderful:** Headway over 2f out, led over 1f out, quickened, easily, won at Sandown 1m, Gd, beating Dragonada by 8l.

3.35 TOTE CAMBRIDGESHIRE HANDICAP — CH4
1m 1f £50,627 (36 declared)

401 (4) 043314 Russian Music (7) (6lb ex) Guy Kelleway 4-10-1 — J Wilkinson (7) 87
402 (5) 112212 Sandmoor Chambray (14) (6lb ex) (B) T Easterby 6-9-7 — J Carroll 88
403 (18) 253240 Game Ploy (14) (BF) D Haydn Jones 5-8-6 — W J O'Connor 85
404 (7) 0-4103 The Dilettanti (62) (C) J Toller 4-9-4 — J Reid 86
405 (36) 500124 Another Time (42) (D) S Woods 5-9-3 — K Fallon 83
406 (2) 311505 Barbe Papa (22) (D) L Cumani 3-9-3 — G Carter 84
407 (32) 110510 Stanton Harcourt (21) J Dunlop 3-9-3 — A Whelan (3) 81
408 (12) -38088 Bell Gorse (14) (C) D Thom 7-9-1 — G Duffield 88
409 (17) 0311-1 Pasternak (84) M Prescott 4-9-1 — R Cochrane 84
410 (23) 310320 Generous Libra (46) D Loder 3-9-0 — D Holland 85
411 (21) 42-504 Sunbeam Dance (19) S bin Suroor 3-8-12 — R Hills 82
412 (1) 400040 Hunters Of Brora (21) J Bethell 7-8-12 — D O'Donohoe ★ 89
413 (24) 1-0135 Zaddis (14) D Weld (IRE) 4-8-10 — K Darley ●90
414 (31) 1-6023 Al Azhar (21) I Balding 3-8-10 — A Mackay 86
415 (22) 050300 Ven Burg (36) B McMahon 4-8-6 — T Quinn 87
416 (19) 7-1031 Prince of Denial (14) (5lb ex) (D) D Arbuthnot 3-8-8 — J Fortune 84
417 (20) 120604 Southerly Wind (49) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-7 — P Roberts (3) 84
418 (8) 158582 King Of Tunes (22) M Haynes 5-8-7 — G Hind 81
419 (34) 01-10 Miracle Kid (22) J Gosden 3-8-6 — Dane O'Neill 80
420 (6) 315300 Sharp Shuffle (14) R Hannon 4-8-5 — D Sweeney (3) 81
421 (10) 5600-3 Secret Spring (13) P Hedger 5-8-4 — J Lowe 86
422 (9) -12023 Bodinostal (22) (D) (BF) Sir M Prescott 3-8-4 — R Ffrench (3) 84
423 (13) 050504 Secret Ally (17) C Brittain 7-8-3 — M Hills 81
424 (35) 315300 Sharp Temper (14) B Hills 3-8-3 — F Lynch 82
425 (26) 211201 Epic Stand (21) (6lb ex) (D) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-3 — N Carlisle ★ 84
426 (14) 100055 Silk Token (16) D Chappell 3-8-2 — D Wright 86
427 (11) 284340 Gay's Return (14) A Jarvis 5-8-1 — J F Egan 88
428 (25) 401201 Gulf Shaadi (6) (5lb ex) E Alston 5-8-1 — P Fessey (3) 83
429 (28) 020000 Pride Of Pendle (8) (D) M Wane 8-8-0 — G Bardwell 85
430 (33) -31342 Silk St John (19) M Ryan 3-8-0 — L Charnock 86
431 (18) 003250 Phillister (7) (B) K Burke 4-8-0 — D Biggs 82
432 (15) 500/00 Palestine Style (14) (B) P Mallon 10-8-0 — Alonso Cook (5) 82
433 (30) 2-1310 Bertleberry (46) Lord Huntingdon 4-7-13 — R Mullen (5) ★ 80
434 (24) 1-0069 Angel Chimes (15) (D) J Banks 4-7-12 — P Fitzsimons (7) 80
435 (27) 0-3019 Mitzie (22) (BF) R Akehurst 5-7-10 — Martin Dwyer 84
436 (3) 654021 Bubble Wings (8) S Woods 5-7-10

Betting: 8-1 Pasternak, 12-1 Hunters Of Brora, Prince Of Denial 14-1 Al Azhar, Epic Stand, Southerly Wind, 16-1 Stanton Harcourt, Sandmoor Chambray, Barbe Papa, 20-1 Gulf Shaadi, Zaddis, Another Time, Miracle Kid, Bodinostal, 25-1 Russian Music, Sunbeam Dance, King Of Tunes, Phillister, 33-1 The Dilettanti, Mitzie, Silk St John, Gift Token.

FORM GUIDE - Russian Music: Ridden over 2f out, headway over 1f out, ran on one pace, 4th of 25, 6l behind Jo Mell at Ascot 7f hcap, Gd-Fm, with Phillister (rec 25lb), raced on disadvantaged far side, never nearer, 11th of 25, 10l behind Jo Mell at Ascot 7f hcap, Gd-Fm. Previously unlucky at Ayr. **Sandmoor Chambray:** Always prominent, headway 3f out, stayed on well, no chance with winner, 2nd of 8, 3l behind Ghataas at Ayr 1m 3f Listed, Gd-Sft. **The Dilettanti:** Chased winner, hard ridden over 3f out, ran on one pace, 3rd of 9, 4l behind Sir Talbot at Windsor 1m 2f hcap, Gd-Fm. **Another Time:** Held up, headway 2f out, ran on well final furlong, 4th of 15, 2l behind Lobeg at Newmarket 1m 2f hcap, Gd-Fm. **Barbe Papa:** Not clear run 3f out, switched left, headway over 1f out, never nearer, 5th of 18, 6l behind Danish Rhapsody at Goodwood 1m 1f hcap, Gd. **Pasternak:** Tracked leaders, led inside final furlong, ran on well, won at York 1m 2f hcap, Gd-Fm, beating Najm Mubeen by 3l. **Generous Libra:** Held up, ridden over 2f out, weakening when hampered 2f out, 17th of 20, 17l behind Fly To The Stars at Goodwood 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. **Al Azhar:** Held up, headway 2f out, kept on, not pace to challenge, 3rd of 11, 3l behind Russian Music at Doncaster 1m hcap, Gd-Fm, with Stanton Harcourt (gave 6lb), headway halfway, ridden and beaten over 2f out, 10th of 11, btn 21l. **Ven Burg:** Hard driven over 2f out, not reach leaders, 9th of 18, 11l behind Queens Consul at Chester 1m hcap, Sft. *Prince Of Denial: Good headway over 1f out, strong run to lead near finish, won at Newbury 1m hcap, gd-Fm, beating Sweet Wilhelmina by a nk.* **Southerly Wind:** Headway over 2f out, stayed on strongly final furlong, 4th of 12, 1½l behind Apache Star at Pontefract 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. **King Of Tunes:** Headway over 1f out, ran on well inside final furlong, 2nd of 18, 1½l behind Danish Rhapsody at Goodwood 1m 1f hcap, with Miracle Kid (rec 3lb), prominent over 7f, 13th of 18, btn and Mitzie (rec 13lb), always behind, 15th of 18, btn 13l. **Bodinostal:** Effort 4f out, every chance over 1f out, not quicken, 3rd of 12, 1l behind Mithali at Doncaster 1m 2f Stks, Gd-Fm. **Epic Stand:** In touch, headway over 1f out, lead well inside final furlong, won at Doncaster 1m hcap, Gd-Fm, beating Queens Consul by ½l with Hunters Of Brora (gave 15lb), dwelt, held up and behind, not clear run 3f out, not recover, 13th of 25, btn 7l. **Gulf Shaadi:** Headway 2f out, ridden to lead over 1f out, ran on well, won at Ascot 1m hcap, Gd-Fm, beating Consort by 3l. **Silk St John:** Ridden over 2f out, headway to chase winner over 1f out, ran on well inside final furlong, 2nd of 8, nk behind Yalta at Kempton 1m hcap, Gd. **Bertleberry:** Held up, ridden over 3f out, soon weakened, 8th of 10, 13l behind Rasha at Lingfield 7f hcap, Gd-Fm. **Angel Chimes:** Started slowly, never near to challenge, 7th of 10, 7l behind Jorrocks at Newbury 7f hcap, Gd.

4.10 PORTLAND PLACE PROPERTIES JOCKEY CLUB CUP — CH4
2m £19,710 (7 declared)

501 (1) 420032 Grey Shot (15) (D) I Balding 5-9-5 — T Quinn 88
502 (4) 1-6312 Double Eclipse (27) (C) (D) (BF) M Johnston 5-9-3 — J Reid ●90
503 (7) 224413 Further Flight (23) (CD) B Hills 11-9-0 — M Hills 88
504 (2) -01051 Jiyush (18) (D) E Dunlop 4-9-0 — R Hills 87
505 (6) 252015 Old Rouvel (23) (D) D Murray Smith 6-9-0 — K Darley 82
506 (5) 313521 Georgia Venture (9) (D) S Woods 3-8-0 — R Ffrench 89
507 (3) 053221 The Faraway Tree (8) G Wragg 3-8-0 — Paul Eddery 86

Betting: 5-4 Double Eclipse, 7-2 Further Flight, 6-1 Jiyush, 7-1 The Faraway Tree, 8-1 Grey Shot, 10-1 Georgia Venture, 25-1 Old Rouvel.

FORM GUIDE - Grey Shot: Always prominent, chased winner final 2f, no impression, 2nd of 10, 2½l behind Jiyush at Newbury 2m hcap, Gd-Fm. **Double Eclipse:** Led, headed over 1f out, unable to quicken closing stages, 2nd of 7, 5l behind Orchestra Stall at Longchamp 1m 7f Gr 3, Gd. **Further Flight:** Held up, headway over 3f out, ran on same pace, 3rd of 5, 1¾l behind Canon Can at Doncaster 2m 2f Gr 3, Gd-Fm, with Old Rouvel (levels), behind, pushed along halfway, well outpaced final 4f, last of 5, btn 22l. **Jiyush:** Held up, led on bit over 2f out, ran on well, won at Newbury 2m hcap, Gd-Fm, beating Grey Shot by 2½l. **Georgia Venture:** Held up in touch, headway to lead 2f out, ran on well, won at Goodwood 2m hcap, Gd-Fm, beating Media Star by 1l. **The Faraway Tree:** Raced 2nd, led 1f out, just held on, won at Haydock 1m 6f stks, Gd, beating Poltarf by a shd.

4.45 NGK SPARK PLUGS PERFORMANCE NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO — CH4
6f £5,796 (7 declared)

601 (2) 311 Raise A King (16) (D) J W Payne 9-7 — G Carter 88
602 (7) 101 Risque Lady (13) P Harris 9-6 — K Fallon 89
603 (4) 3113 Monte Lemos (14) (BF) R Charlton 9-1 — J Reid ●90
604 (1) 3125 Blakeset (29) (C) R Hannon 8-12 — T Quinn 89
605 (5) 31 Hakeem (32) (D) R Armstrong 8-11 — R Hills 88
606 (3) 403140 Exbourne's Wish (14) (D) (BF) B Hills 8-10 — M Hills 82
607 (6) 100 Princess Natalie (8) M W Easterby 8-8 — T Lucas 89

Betting: 5-2 Raise A King, 3-1 Risque Lady, 9-2 Monte Lemos, Hakeem, 8-1 Blakeset, 10-1 Exbourne's Wish, 12-1 Princess Natalie.

FORM GUIDE - Raise A King: Held up, headway over 1f out to lead well inside final furlong, won at Yarmouth 6f stks, Gd-Fm, beating Sheardon by 1½l. **Risque Lady:** Dwelt, headway 2f out, joined leader 1f out, ridden to lead close home, won at Haydock 5f stks, Gd, beating Pure Coincidence by a nk. **Monte Lemos:** Prominent, led over 2f out, soon headed, every chance final furlong, ran on, 3rd of 11, 1l behind Ivory's Joy at Newbury 5f hcap, Gd-Fm, with Exbourne's Wish (rec 1lb), prominent over 2f, no chance when hampered inside final furlong, 10th of 11, btn 9l. **Blakeset:** Ridden over 3f out, headway final furlong, never nearer, 5th of 9, 5l behind Sheardon at Epsom 6f hcap, Gd. **Hakeem:** Prominent, ridden over 1f out, led final furlong, ran on well, won at Folkestone 6f 2y mdn auct, Gd, beating Call To Order by 2l. **Princess Natalie:** Driven along over 3f out, always in rear, last of 11, 14l behind Khayrab at Haydock 6f hcap, Gd.

5.20 LINKS HANDICAP
7f £7,668 (24 declared)

1 (20) 10150- Cossack Count (401) S Dow 4-9-11 — W J O'Connor 84
2 (1) 1030-5 Prince Lara (19) (D) P Harris 5-9-9 — J Reid 83
3 (22) 060360 Jeffrey Anotherred (28) (D) K McAuliffe 3-9-8 — M Hills 82
4 (12) 30-000 Saseedo (85) (CD) W O'Gorman 7-9-8 — Emma O'Gorman —
5 (14) 0-2240 Undercover Agent (66) (D) J Dunlop 3-9-7 — G Carter 80
6 (5) 101510 Rasha (23) (D) R Armstrong 3-9-6 — R Hills 81
7 (23) 00-600 Mellflower (22) (CD) M Heaton-Ellis 7-9-6 — R Cochrane 80
8 (3) 202400 Tertium (14) M Wane 5-9-5 — J Bramhill 81
9 (5) 543202 Westman's Weigh (15) (D) R Hollinshead 4-9-4 — D Griffiths (3) 85
10 (16) 881022 Marjaana (15) (D) P Walwyn 4-9-3 — J Carroll 85
11 (19) 140500 Zanstadd (76) (D) C Brittain 3-9-2 — G Hind 78
12 (24) 0-6100 Night Dance (17) (D) K Morgan 5-8-13 — R Ffrench (3) 82
13 (7) 510630 Mr Teigh (14) Mrs J Ramsden 5-8-13 — J Fortune 81
14 (16) 030064 Zelda Zonk (18) (B) B Meehan 5-8-13 — K Darley 88
15 (8) 101002 Stackattack (52) (D) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-12 — F Lynch 87
16 (13) 0242 Tafts Well (17) R Akehurst 4-8-12 — T Quinn 87
17 (17) 300650 Broughtons Turmoil (6) (D) B Millman 8-8-11 — K Fallon 88
18 (21) 616116 Ryser's Rascal (18) (D) E Alston 5-8-5 — J F Egan 85
19 (2) 608504 Royal Result (15) M W Easterby 4-8-5 — T Lucas 87
20 (4) 110030 Watch The Fire (15) J Banks 4-8-4 — D Biggs 87
21 (11) 210010 Mythos Mistake (15) (D) A Bailey 4-8-4 — P Roberts (3) 86
22 (15) -01514 Sandicliffe (17) (D) (BF) J Toller 4-7-12 — M Henry (5) ●90
23 (6) 423014 Gain Line (17) (D) Bob Jones 4-7-10 — L Charnock ★ 81
24 (10) 30-000 Rise Up Singing (56) (CD) W Musson 9-7-10 — D O'Shea ★ —

Betting: 7-1 Mythos Mistake, 8-1 Stackattack, Ryser's Rascal, Sandicliffe, Gain Line, 10-1 Undercover Agent, Rasha, Westman's Weigh, Mr Teigh, Tafts Well, Royal Result.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
Pat Eddery	114	568	20.1	-87.72	H Cecil	71	288	24.7	+18.84
L Dettori	90	569	15.8	-165.38	J Gosden	50	328	15.2	-57.42
W Swinburn	44	311	14.1	+2.17	R Hannon	45	557	8.12	-267.68
R Hills	43	308	14	-26.94	L Cumani	37	298	12.5	-123.84
J Reid	39	389	10	-67.62	J Dunlop	35	323	10.8	-130.42
M Hills	32	378	18.1	-61.47	B Hills	32	288	11.1	-85.26
T Quinn	36	402	9	-192.09	M Stoute	31	314	9.91	-133.26

Chepstow (N.H)

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.05	Crack On	Crack On
2.40	Penlah	Fairly Sharp
3.10	Samlee	Samlee
3.45	Orsay	—
4.20	Tidal Force	Tidal Force
4.50	Robert's Toy	Noble Lord

Oval, left-handed undulating course, nearly 2m round with 250yds run-in.
Going: Good to firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: *Chabrol (2.40) John Berry, Newmarket, 164 miles.*
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 3.10 Dromhana. **Visored:** 2.40 Fasil.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat

2.05 TIMEFORM CHASERS & HURDLERS NOVICE CHASE — BBC1
2m 3f 110yds £6,830 (3 declared)

1 121124 Bayerd (23) (D) J O'Shea 6-11-8 — Michael Brennan 78
2 053125 Fraser Carey (9) T George 5-11-2 — M A Fitzgerald ★ 84
3 11030- Crack On (176) P Hobbs 7-11-0 — R Dunwoody ●90

Betting: 1-2 Crack On, 7-2 Fraser Carey, 9-2 Bayerd.

FORM GUIDE - Bayerd: Mistake 2nd and behind, in touch until weakened from 10th, 4th of 6, 18l behind Mr Playfull at N Abbot 2m 5f hcap ch, Gd. **Fraser Carey:** Behind, headway 11th, one pace 2 out, 5th of 8, 11l behind Fausting at Exeter 2m 3l nov ch, Gd-Fm. **Crack On:** Never near to challenge, 7th of 9, 18l behind I'm A Dreamer at Ascot 2m hcap hdl, Gd-Fm.

2.40 TIMEFORM FREE HANDICAP HURDLE — BBC1
2m 110yds £6,986 (10 declared)

1 11422- Far Dawn (194) (D) Mrs A Perrett 11-10 — C Maude 82
2 15341- Summer Spell (162) (D) N Henderson 11-7 — M A Fitzgerald 83
3 44- Chabrol (F61) John Berry 11-0 — V Smith 80
4 0314- Fasil (F12) (BF) J O'Shea 10-10 — Michael Brennan (3) ★ 81
5 331P-4 Crandon Boulevard (21) (D) Mrs J Pitman 10-6 — R Farrant 80
6 02131- Deallowed (F11) (D) D Nicholson 10-6 — R Johnson 79
7 22221- Fairly Sharp (F112) (D) Graeme Roe 10-6 — R Dunwoody ●90
8 111 Penlah (F15) (D) G McCourt 10-6 — D Bridgwater 89
9 -63403 Chief Mouse (21) (D) F Jordan 10-3 — L Aspell (3) 80
10 061- Bracon (F13) (D) W Muir 10-0 — M Richards 78

Betting: 3-1 Deallowed, 4-1 Summer Spell, 11-2 Far Dawn, Fairly Sharp, 13-2 Fasil, 7-1 Crandon Boulevard, 8-1 Bracon.

FORM GUIDE - Far Dawn: Led 3 out until outpaced close home, 2nd of 12, 5l behind Quakers Field at Aintree 2m nov hdl, Gd. **Summer Spell:** Going well, led last, easily, won at Ascot 2m 4f nov hdl, Gd, beating Eau de Cologne by 6l. **Chabrol:** In touch till unable to quicken from 2 out, 4th of 10, 17l behind L'Opera at Kempton 2m Juv Nv Hdle, Gd-Sft. **Fasil:** Early mistakes, never reached leaders, 4th of 7, 9l behind John Drumm at Ascot 2m nov hcap hdl, Gd-Fm. **Crandon Boulevard:** Held up, headway 7th, weakened 3 out, 4th of 8, 18l behind Wixford Hill at Worcester 2m 4f hcap hdl, Gd. **Deallowed:** Made all, soon clear, unchallenged, won at Exeter 2m 2f nov hdle, Gd, beating Rachel Louise by 10l. **Fairly Sharp:** Prominent, led 6th, clear after next, easily, won at Stratford 2m nov hdl, Gd, beating Irene's Pet by 1½l. **Penlah:** Tracked leaders, led 5th, clear 2 out, hit last, driven out, won at Southwell 3m nov hcap hdl, Gd, beating Lightning Quest by 14l. **Chief Mouse:** Held up in rear, lost touch from 3 out, 3rd of 6, 15l behind Danegold at Bangor 2m 1f hcap hdl, Gd. **Bracon:** Challenged from last, kept on well, won at Perth 2m nov hdl, Gd, beating Sadler's Realm by 4l.

3.10 MERCEDES BENZ HANDICAP CHASE — BBC1
3m £6,892 (7 declared)

1 1D10F- Bell Staffboy (186) (D) J O'Shea 8-11-10 — Michael Brennan (3) 88
2 11420- Evangelica (180) (C) M Pipe 7-11-4 — C Maude 84
3 12412- Samlee (168) (C) (D) P Hobbs 8-11-2 — D Bridgwater ●90
4 11135- Father Sky (F9) (D) (BF) O Sherwood 6-11-1 — J Osborne ★ 88
5 12262- Dromhana (187) (D) (BF) P Nicholls 7-10-5 — T J Murphy ★ 82
6 41P23U Andrelot (4) (D) P Bowen 10-10-5 — R Dunwoody ★ 87
7 1423-5 Bestson (7) R Buckler 8-10-3 — B Powell 82

Betting: 3-1 Samlee, 7-2 Father Sky, 4-1 Dromhana, 9-2 Evangelica, 8-1 Bell Staffboy, Andrelot, 12-1 Bestson.

FORM GUIDE - Bell Staffboy: Chased leaders before fell 2 out in race won by Dorans Pride at Fairyhouse 2m 4f ch, Gd-Fm. **Evangelica:** Never a factor, 17th of 36, well behind Lord Gyllene at Aintree 4m 4f hcap ch, Gd. **Samlee:** Blundered badly 12th and 21st, recovered and ran on well, 2nd of 17, 1½l behind Belmont King at Ayr 4m 1f hcap ch, Gd. **Father Sky:** Tailed off, 5th of 8, well behind Big Archie at Stratford 3m nov ch, Gd. **Dromhana:** Chased winner from 14th, one pace, 2nd of 6, 20l behind Strokesaver at Wincanton 3m 1f nov ch, Fm. **Andrelot:** Driven along throughout, 4th and losing touch when unseated rider at the 10th in race won by Pennybridge at Sedgefield 2m 5f hcap ch, Gd-Fm. **Bestson:** Chased leaders, challenged 9th, weakened 11th, last of 5, well behind Highbeath at M Rasen 2m 4f hcap ch, Gd.

3.45 STARTERS NOVICE HURDLE
2m 110yds £3,836 (4 declared)

1 Jolly James Mrs M Jones 6-10-12 — D Byrne —
2 Orsay (F22) W Muir 5-10-12 — M Richards —
3 Sofyaan (F72) Lady Herries 4-10-11 — R Dunwoody —
4 Galacia (F316) R Alner 5-10-7 — R Johnson —

Betting: 11-10 Orsay, 11-8 Sofyaan, 8-1 Jolly James, 10-1 Galacia.

4.20 '50 YEARS OF TIMEFORM' NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 4f 110yds £3,534 (4 declared)

1 244-21 Northern Fleet (49) (D) Mrs A Perrett 4-11-12 — C Maude 82
2 26/31 Walter's Dream (58) N Henderson 7-11-5 — M A Fitzgerald 88
3 1005-U Tidal Force (24) P Hobbs 6-10-10 — R Dunwoody ●90
4 005- Froeline Fontaine (148) N Henderson 5-10-6 — J R Kavanagh 83

Betting: 11-10 Walter's Dream, 3-1 Tidal Force, 7-2 Northern Fleet, 6-1 Froeline Fontaine.

4.50 VALETS HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 4f 110yds £3,511 (3 declared)

1 F1-212 Robert's Toy (7) M Pipe 6-11-10 — C Maude ★ 88
2 3402-2 Noble Lord (119) (BF) R Phillips 4-11-8 — B Powell ●90
3 F03-FF Noble Colours (21) S Griffiths 4-10-4 — R Johnson 88

Betting: *4-6 Noble Lord, 13-8 Noble Colours, 8-1 Robert's Toy.*

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
A P McCoy	26	94	27.7	+1.58	M Pipe	39	165	23.6	-21.30
R Dunwoody	19	109	17.4	-43.26	P Hobbs	16	62	25.8	+43.35
G Llewellyn	14	84	16.7	-23.24	P Nicholls	15	67	22.4	-7.31
M Fitzgerald	11	68	16.2	-15.47	D Nicholson	13	50	26.4	+1.24
A Maguire	10	47	21.3	-8.65	Mrs J Pitman	6	32	18.8	+39.00
R Johnson	10	65	15.4	-30.36	R Alner	5	32	15.6	-3.50
W Marston	9	59	15.3	+14.30	R Buckler	4	39	10.3	+35.25

Uttoxeter (N.H.)

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.30	Hisar	Hisar
3.00	Edgemoor Prince	The Sky Padre
3.30	Talathath	Mr Moriarty
4.00	Danger Baby (nb)	Danger Baby
4.35	Nishamira	Nordic Breeze
5.05	Cardinal Rule	Cardinal Rule
5.35	Optimism Reigns	Scarlet Rambler

Left-handed oval track of 1¼m with 170yds run-in.
Going: *Good. ★ Denotes blinkers.*
Long distance travellers: Danger Baby (4.00) P Bowen, Dyfed, 180 miles.
Seven day winners: 3.30 Mr Moriarty, Talathath; 4.0 Danger Baby; 4.35 Nishamira.
Blinkered first time: 4.00 Danger Baby. **Visored:** None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat.

2.30 NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER NOVICE HURDLE
2m £2,337 (9 declared)

1 02/0P- Brandon Bridge (196) D Geraghty 6-10-11 — B Sapple
2 5/34-3 Captain Marmalade (F8) D Thom 8-10-11 — R Massey (3)
3 3/F- Kedge Anchor Man (328) A Foster 6-10-11 — N Williamson
4 Obelos (F8) Miss S Wilton 6-10-11 — D Gallagher
5 0004P/ Our Main Man (F14) R Whitaker 7-10-11 — B Garritty
6 Sound The Trumpet (F29) R Spicer 5-10-11 — M Sharratt
7 Taniyar (F18) R Hollinshead 5-10-11 — Gary Lyons
8 0022- Hisar (F8) C Brooks 4-10-10 — G Bradley
9 Machalini (F67) T George 4-10-10 — A Maguire

Betting: 7-4 Hisar, 9-2 Captain Marmalade, 5-1 Obelos, 7-1 Taniyar, 8-1 Kedge Anchor Man, 10-1 Our Main Man.

3.00 STAFFORDSHIRE YEOMANRY NOVICE CHASE
3m £5,022 (5 declared)

1 12014- Edgemoor Prince (283) (BF) P Hobbs 6-11-0 — A Maguire
2 0P-453 Little Tincture (11) (D) Mrs T McInnes Skinner 7-11-0 — G Upton
3 F01-P The H'Penny Marvel (112) (D) T George 7-11-0 — R Thornton (3)
4 F0P-33 The Sky Padre (11) M Pitman 8-11-0 — J Culloty ★
5 44P2U/ Trimage (681) N J Pomfret 9-11-0 — W Marston

Betting: 1-4 Edgemoor Prince, 11-2 The Sky Padre, 10-1 Little Tincture, 14-1 The H'penny Marvel, 16-1 Trimage.

3.30 SENTINEL HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 4f 110yds £4,981 (8 declared)

1 45004- Home Counties (F7) (D) D Moffatt 8-12-0 — D J Moffatt
2 4112-1 Talathath (7) (D) D Nicholson 5-11-6 — A Maguire
3 100/2- Jalcanto (368) (D) R Jackes 7-11-1 — Gary Lyons
4 1P1251 Mr Moriarty (6) (C) S Bowring 6-10-12 — T Dascombe (3)
5 0015-0 I'm A Dreamer (15) Miss M Rowland 7-10-9 — B Thornton (3)
6 52311- Lough Tully (213) (D) F Jordan 7-10-7 — A P McCoy
7 F305-3 Bend Sable (7) R Strange 7-10-3 — J Culloty
8 42-132 Bodantree (13) N Babbage 6-10-0 — B Fenton

Betting: 11-8 Talathath, 4-1 Mr Moriarty, 11-2 Home Counties, 13-2 Bodantree, 7-1 Bend Sable, 8-1 I'm A Dreamer, Lough Tully, 25-1 Jalcanto.

4.00 BRITANNIA BUILDING SOCIETY HANDICAP CHASE
3m 2f £6,808 (5 declared)

1 11364- Act Of Parliament (155) (D) K Bailey 9-12-0 — N Williamson ★
2 2025-1 Carole's Crusader (21) (D) D Gandolfo 6-11-11 — A Maguire
3 /34P4- Major Look (225) (C) S Brookshaw 9-11-0 — A Dobbin
4 5324-1 Danger Baby (8) (C) P Bowen 7-10-9 — A P McCoy ★
5 P-031U The Gopher (7) (D) D Wintle 8-10-9 — W Marston

Betting: 7-4 Carole's Crusader, 3-1 Danger Baby, 4-1 Act Of Parliament, 11-2 The Gopher, 6-1 Major Look.

4.35 STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT HANDICAP HURDLE
2m £3,347 (5 declared)

1 0F11-2 Nordic Breeze (F85) (CD) (BF) M Pipe 5-12-0 — A P McCoy
2 1301-1 Danegold (21) (D) M Channon 5-11-8 — A Thornton
3 314-11 Nishamira (7) (D) D Nicholson 5-10-13 — A Maguire
4 P1/0-6 Sylvan Sabre (13) (CD) D Shaw 8-10-6 — A S Smith
5 00045- Saint Ciel (F15) (CD) F Jordan 9-10-4 — B Sapple

Betting: 13-8 Nishamira, 15-8 Danegold, 9-4 Nordic Breeze, 8-1 Saint Ciel, 25-1 Sylvan Sabre.

5.05 QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS HANDICAP CHASE
2m 4f £4,026 (4 declared)

1 12P2P- Factor Ten (128) (D) Miss H Knight 9-12-0 — J F Titley
2 351P4- Coolree (197) (D) J King 9-11-1 — Mr J Tizzard (5)
3 11/F-3 Speaker Weatherill (7) (D) O Brennan 8-11-0 — M Brennan
4 5P21-3 Cardinal Rule (22) (BF) Miss V Williams 8-10-3 — N Williamson

Betting: 8-4 Cardinal Rule, 2-1 Factor Ten, 7-2 Coolree, 6-1 Speaker Weatherill.

5.35 GREEN'UN (SPORTS FINAL) NOVICE HURDLE
2m 6f 110yds £4,086 (8 declared)

1 34-521 Blaster Watson (13) C Smith 6-11-3 — M Ranger
2 530/01 Scarlet Rambler (11) Miss H Knight 8-11-3 — J Culloty
3 02-0 Connell's Croft (21) T Keddy 5-10-11 — G Upton
4 45PP-6 Felloo (21) T George 8-10-11 — T Jenks
5 54/ Finnure (671) F Jordan 5-10-11 — B Sapple
6 24022- Lord Khalice (218) (BF) G Hubbard 6-10-11 — R Elliot (7)
7 P218- Optimism Reigns (280) N Chance 6-10-11 — A P McCoy
8 1- Castle Arrow (182) C Mann 4-10-10 — J Magee (3)

Betting: 2-1 Scarlet Rambler, 11-4 Lord Khalice, 4-1 Optimism Reigns, 5-1 Castle Arrow, 13-2 Blaster Watson, 14-1 Felloo, 16-1 Connell's Croft, Finnure.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
R Dunwoody	36	150	24	-41.03	M Pipe	39	129	30.2	-7.52
A P McCoy	24	88	27.3	-1.04	K Bailey	23	112	20.5	-20.70
N Williamson	22	125	17.6	-13.86	D Nicholson	20	86	23.3	-14.31
A Maguire	21	101	20.8	-4.57	P Hobbs	16	82	19.5	-13.01
J Osborne	18	71	25.4	+24.15	Miss Knight	15	68	22.1	+17.10
R Johnson	13	103	12.6	-34.87	S Brookshaw	11	53	20.8	+16.76
W Marston	12	113	10.6	-54.03	C Brooks	7	24	29.2	+5.80

Racing

Haami back to top form

Chris Hawkins

ONE of the biggest problems for *Hamdan Al Maktoum* must be what to do with all the silverware, ornamental clocks and cups he wins during the season, so a set of crystal glasses must have made a nice change yesterday after his Haami had won the Somerville Tattersalls Stakes at Newmarket.

Haami moved through smoothly to beat Bintang by a length and a half and re-establish a reputation that had been on the wane after his defeat in the Solario Stakes at Sandown in August.

He finished third there behind Little Indian and Tracking but easily reversed the form with the latter this time, proving that he had been below par with a sore throat.

"We had him scoped when he got home from Sandown and found he had a dirty throat and an infection," said John Dunlop, his trainer. "He's got a lovely rhythmn and quickens really well. The Dewhurst could be next, but I would think he's more likely to be put away."

Haami, who is now 16–1 for the 2,000 Guineas with the Tote, is a product of Sheikh Maktoum's Shadwell Stud and is a beautifully bred colt by Nashwan out of a half-sister *to the Derby winner* Erhaab. He should stay at least a mile and a quarter next season and could easily develop into a Derby contender.

Abreeze, the Godolphin runner, was backed down to favouritism but punters knew their fate at halfway and he trailed in second last. With Shmooze running poorly in the Cheveley Park Stakes it has not been a good week for the stable's juveniles who are either overrated or not right.

The surprising aspect of Haami's victory was the lack of support for him in the ring, drifting from 7-2 to 5-1, but money told a different story *in the Charles Wells Bombar*dier Bitter Rated Handicap when Al Muallim, ridden by Tony McGlone, landed a gamble in some style.

Pip Payne trains Al Muallim for a partnership of Hong Kong businessmen whose Al Azhar, trained by Ian Balding, is strongly fancied for this afternoon's Cambridgeshire.

At Doncaster a year ago Al Azhar beat The Fly over three lengths in a nursery. That form has been made to look pretty useful this season although *The Fly, third in the* St Leger, was unable to justify odds-on favouritism in the Racing Post Godolphin Stakes.

Mons, fourth in last year's St Leger, made all the running here under a well-judged ride from Frankie Dettori.

It was good to see one of the game's grafters, Rod Millman, in the winner's enclosure with Kewarra after the James Levett Handicap. Millman, a former work rider for Martin Pipe, does well with a small string of horses at Cullompton in Devon and Kewarra, home bred by George Palmer, was winning for the third time in six weeks.

Luca Cumani's Silverani ran on well to finish second *after a long lay off and looks* one for the notebook.

Connections of Cambridgeshire entry Strazo elected to play safe by going instead for the Further Flight Limited Stakes and were rewarded with victory. He started 6-4 favourite and ran on strongly to beat Midyan Call by two lengths.

"You could be beaten two lengths in the Cambridgeshire and still finish 10th," reasoned the four-year-old's owner, actor Enn Reitel.

Trainer watch

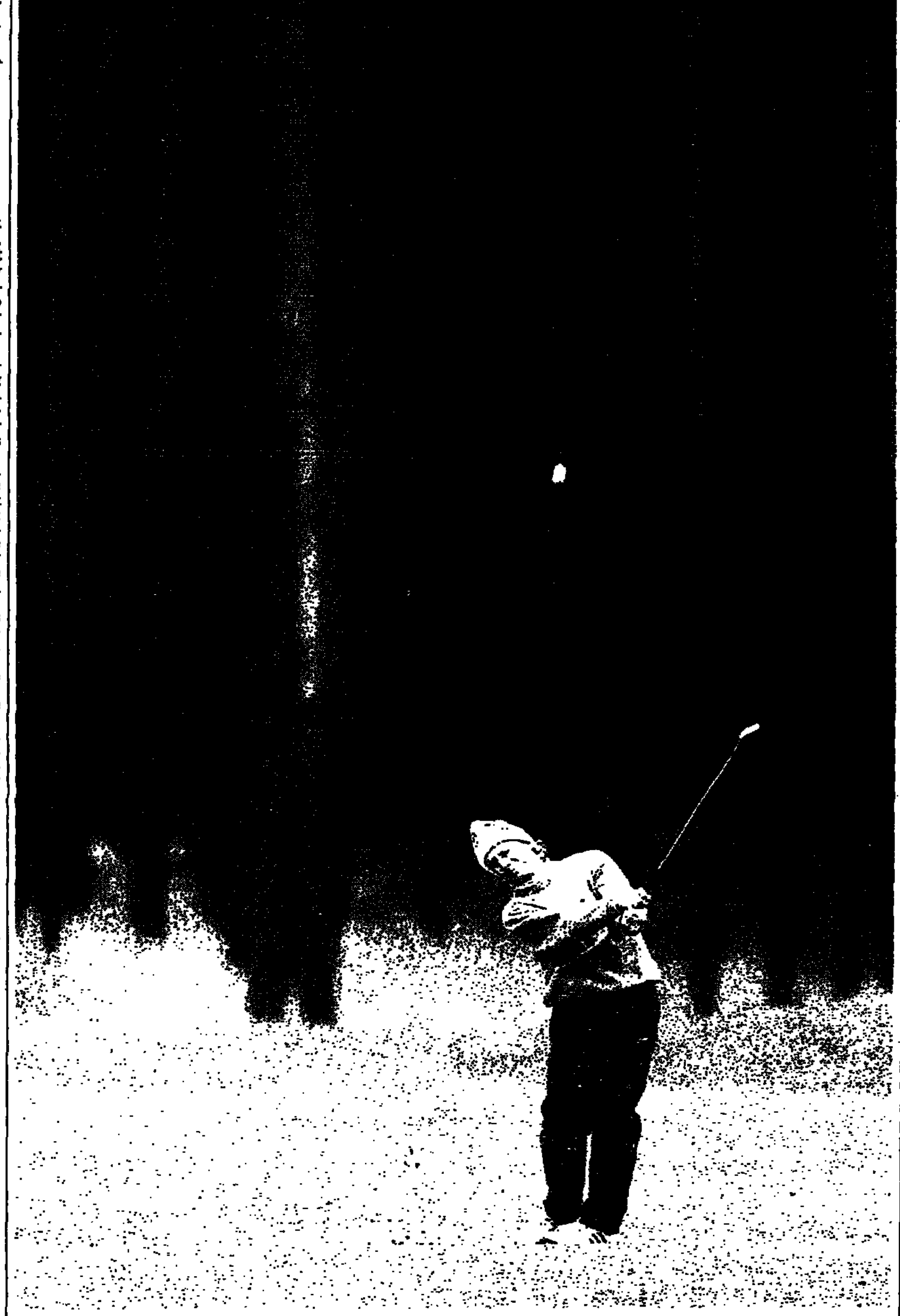
Horses having their first run for a new trainer today — Newmarket: 5.20 Cossack Count, M Kauntze to S Dow.

Nottingham: 2.15 Jawah, D Weld to K Mahdi; 5.25 Classic Colours, I Campbell to G Yardley; Yaverland, C Dwyer to John Berry; Zaaleff, Dr J Scargill to K Mahdi.

Wolverhampton: 8.00 Grovefair Lad, Martyn Wane to S Bowring; 8.30 Classic Eagle, R Harris to I Campbell; 9.30 Don't Worry Mike, F Lee to J Spearing.

Chepstow: 2.40 Chabrol, R Harris to John Berry; 3.45 Galacia, W Turner to R Alner; 4.50 Noble Lord, R Buckler to R Phillips.

Uttoxeter: 2.30 Machalini, J Bolger to T George; 3.00 Trimage, T Forster to N J Pomfret; 3.30 Jalcanto, Mrs M Reveley to R T Juckes; 5.05 Coolree, P Nicholls to J King; 5.35 Optimism Reigns, J McLoughlin to Noel Chance.



Lead role . . . Langer sets the pace as he plays an iron to the 15th green before coming unstuck in a divot on a later fairway

Golf

Langer's lie in divot lifts Monty

Michael Britten in Berlin

EVEN Colin Montgomerie had to admit yesterday that he was suitably grateful for the outrageous stroke of bad luck that afflicted Bernhard Langer in the second round of the German Masters.

The German had just made his 11th birdie in pursuit of a 10th victory on home soil and, with only his final hole, the 9th, remaining, looked set to move into a commanding halfway lead at the Motzener See club here.

When Montgomerie, who was playing with Langer and America's Steve Jones, drove into a bush at the 9th, he feared his four-shot deficit would be increased, especially as his Ryder Cup partner had hit the centre of the fairway.

Langer, however, had also found a lie that turned his second shot at this innocuous *345-yard par-four into one of* hit-and-hope. His ball was lying in a divot hole that had been filled with sand by maintenance staff.

Faced with a 90-yard pitch *over a pond, Langer hit his* "bunker recovery" into the water and finished on 69 with a double-bogey six, for a seven-under-par 137.

Instead of enjoying a lead of at least three strokes, Langer will start today's third round only one ahead of Jose Maria Olazabal (69) and his fellow German Thomas Gogele (65), *with Montgomerie sharing* fourth place on five under par with a group including two more Ryder Cup players, Per-Ulrik Johansson and Thomas Bjorn.

The normally sanguine Langer found it difficult to control his anger. He slammed his club into the ground and glared angrily at the rules official who had rightly refused him relief, saying: "Some of my fellow professionals do not know how to repair divots properly. Anywhere else it would not have been a problem but when you have to hit a ball from sand over water, it is always very difficult."

It was the only error by a consummate professional who nevertheless remains not only in position to secure his fourth victory of the season but also to prevent Montgomerie claiming the European No. 1 position for a record fifth successive year.

"It was very unfortunate for Bernhard but it helped me," said the Scot, who scrambled his par for a 68 *after hitting his own 90-yard* pitch from a perfect lie to eight feet and sinking the putt. "It was a huge bonus to gain two shots on him instead of losing another one."

Olazabal and Bjorn, who had nine birdies in his 68, also went into the pond at the 9th but Johansson gained the last of his five birdies there from 10 feet and a 67 left him with every prospect of adding to his English and European Open successes.

Severiano Ballesteros avoided further brushes with *time-keeping officials* in returning 70 to join the group on level par, which included the American Phil Mickelson.

Nicholas to take on older men

ALISON NICHOLAS came to the rescue of the women's European Tour yesterday as she maintained her personal challenge for Order of Merit honours with a one-under-par 72 for a one-over 147 *halfway total in the Italian* Open, *writes Elspeth Burnside in Sicily.*

The US Open champion announced she had changed her schedule to include next month's inaugural European Cup, a Ryder Cup-style match against a team from the men's European Seniors Tour in Portugal.

"I think it is important for the tour that the leading players make themselves available," said the 35-year-old Briton. With invi*tations already rejected* by Laura Davies, the world No. 1 Annika Sorenstam and Lisa Hackney, the Briton who has won the American LPGA Rookie of the Year award, there was concern in European ranks.

Longchamp today BBC1

1.25 PRIX DU CADRAN
2m 4f £44,872 (7 declared)

1 (3) 5-0014 Double Trigger (23) (D) (BF) M Johnston 6-9-2 ...... M Roberts 89
2 (1) 30-033 Chief Contender (27) P Chapple-Hyam 4-9-2 ...... O Doleuze 85
3 (2) 501563 Tubo (28) R Martin-Sanchez 8-9-2 ...... S Guillot 78
4 (7) 2-2412 Leonard Quercus (328) F Bedouret 5-9-2 ...... O Peslier 80
5 (4) 22-244 Always Earnest (27) (CD) Mme M Bollack-Badel 9-9-2 ...... Alain Badel 84
6 (5) 105522 Persian Punch (14) D Elsworth 4-9-2 ...... C Asmussen 88
7 (6) 412154 Celeric (46) (D) (BF) D Morley 5-9-2 ...... L Dettori ●90

Betting: 2-1 Celeric, 11-4 Double Trigger, 4-1 Persian Punch, 5-1 Chief Contender, 8-1 Always Earnest, 25-1 Tubo, Leonard Quercus.

2.25 PRIX DE ROYALLIEU (FILLIES)
1m 4f 110yds £26,923 (9 declared)

1 (7) 35511- Annaba (349) (CD) J Gosden 4-9-1 ...... O Peslier ●90
2 (3) 10-012 Tulipa (91) (D) S bin Suroor 4-9-1 ...... L Dettori 85
3 (6) 104-03 Averring (19) J Cunnington 4-9-1 ...... F Sanchez 89
4 (9) 1-240 Darashandeh (118) A De Royer-Dupre 3-8-7 ...... C Asmussen 87
5 (1) -52314 Kassana (62) (D) A De Royer-Dupre 3-8-7 ...... G Mosse 88
6 (8) 34-151 Muscadel (25) (C) A Fabre 3-8-7 ...... T Jarnet 89
7 (4) 0315 Roseballa (34) H Pantall 3-8-7 ...... S Guillot 78
8 (2) 21141 Dame Kiri (15) (D) Mme C Head 3-8-7 ...... O Doleuze 81
9 (5) 635004 Gracie Lady (28) R Collet 3-8-7 ...... D Boeuf 76

Betting: 5-2 Tulipa, 3-1 Annaba, 4-1 Darashandeh, 6-1 Kassana, 8-1 Dame Kiri, 10-1 Muscadel, 12-1 Averring

2.55 PRIX DOLLAR (GROUP 2)
1m 1f 165yds £26,923 (8 declared)

1 (7) 1-2103 Alhaarth (21) (C) S bin Suroor 4-9-4 ...... L Dettori 87
2 (8) 200415 Bello (13) F Bedouret 5-9-0 ...... C Asmussen 78
3 (5) 1-2243 Astarabad (126) A De Royer-Dupre 3-8-9 ...... G Mosse ●90
4 (1) 1-1622 Desert Story (21) (BF) M Stoute 3-8-9 ...... O Peslier 86
5 (4) 603264 Mammenberg (16) (C) P Demercastel 3-8-9 ...... V Vion 79
6 (3) 1-1344 Visionary (14) (C) A Fabre 3-8-9 ...... T Jarnet 84
7 (2) 121242 Lord Cromby (38) (C) (D) R Collet 3-8-9 ...... D Boeuf 83
8 (6) 201133 Handsome Ridge (14) J Gosden 3-8-9 ...... S Guillot 83

Betting: 15-8 Astarabad, 7-2 Alhaarth, Desert Story, 5-1 Visionary, 7-1 Handsome Ridge, 10-1 Lord Cromby, 50-1 Mammenberg, Bello.

Longchamp Sunday BBC2

2.40 PRIX DE L'ABBAYE DE LONGCHAMP
5f £44,872 (12 declared)

1 (6) -11121 Royal Applause (30) (D) B Hills 4-9-11 ...... M Hills 88
2 (8) 451343 Averti (8) (D) W Muir 6-9-11 ...... M J Kinane 80
3 (11) 321235 Titus Livius (32) (D) J Pease 4-9-11 ...... C Asmussen 84
4 (9) 10-111 Late Parade (83) (D) (BF) A Renzoni 6-9-11 ...... D Fancera 86
5 (10) 610060 Deep Finesse (17) (CD) M Jarvis 3-8-11 ...... M Roberts 76
6 (3) 5-0051 Eveningperformance (17) (D) H Candy 6-9-7 ...... C Rutter 89
7 (2) 541001 Don't Worry Me (32) (CD) G Henrot 5-9-7 ...... O Peslier 86
8 (7) 406350 Hever Golf Rose (17) (CD) T Naughton 6-9-7 ...... J Weaver 81
9 (1) 3145-3 Carmine Lake (25) (D) P Chapple-Hyam 3-9-7 ...... J Reid 79
10 (5) 2111-3 Kistena (16) (CD) (BF) Mme C Head 4-9-7 ...... D Boeuf 94
11 (4) 11-141 Pas de Reponse (35) (D) Mme C Head 3-9-7 ...... O Doleuze ●90
12 (12) 12130 Zelding (42) (D) R Collet 2-8-4 ...... T Jarnet 89

Betting: 2-1 Pas De Reponse, 9-4 Royal Applause, 6-1 Eveningperformance, 13-2 Kistena, 12-1 Don't Worry Me, 14-1 Averti, 16-1 Carmine Lake, 20-1 Titus Livius, 25-1 Hever Golf Rose, 40-1 Late Parade, 50-1 Deep Finesse, 66-1 Zelding.

● Daring Derek made an impressive debut at Lingfield yesterday for Newmarket trainer David Loder. Loder said: "This is a nice horse, but we have been held up with him as he was immature earlier in the year. He is still a baby".

Wolverhampton this evening

	RON COX	TOP FORM
7.00	Soft Touch	Soft Touch
7.30	Pericles	Effervescence
8.00	Farmost	Legal Issue
8.30	Hill Farm Dancer	China Castle
9.00	Poetto	Poetto
9.30	Don't Worry Mike	Little Ibnr

All-weather, Fibresand track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 380yds. Sharp bends.
Going: Standard. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: *High numbers have a slight advantage.*
Long distance travellers: My Godson (7.30) M Dods, Co.Durham, 162 miles.
Seven day winners: 8.00 Farmost.
Blinkered first time: 9.00 Russian Romeo. **Visored:** 9.00 Poetto.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing.

7.00 AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES 2YO
6f £2,070 (13 declared)

1 (12) Best of Our Days C Thornton 9-0 ...... Dean McKeown
2 (6) 50204 Bound To Please (35) P Makin 9-0 ...... D Holland
3 (3) 00 Critical Air (8) M Prescott 9-0 ...... G Duffield
4 (2) 0 Happy Wanderer (9) P Haslam 9-0 ...... Dale Gibson
5 (13) 500 Press Ahead (25) B McMahon 9-0 ...... L Newton
6 (4) 0 Third Cousin (42) M Heaton-Ellis 9-0 ...... S Drowne
7 (5) 530 Arbenig (24) B Palling 8-9 ...... D Sweeney (3)
8 (5) 63 Lady Alnitra (8) C Hill 8-9 ...... R Mullen (5)
9 (11) Mamble's Pension A Bailey 8-9 ...... D Wright
10 (7) 00 Mrs Pickles (29) M Usher 8-9 ...... J Marshall
11 (1) 53453 Rovarda (10) P Evans 8-9 ...... Paul Eddery
12 (10) 0 Sillion Dalliance (12) Lord Huntingdon 8-9 ...... Dane O'Neill
13 (8) 220224 Soft Touch (24) Gay Kelleway 8-9 ...... A Whelan (3)

Betting: 3-1 Soft Touch, 11-2 Rovarda, 13-2 Bound To Please, Lady Alnitra, 8-1 Arbenig, Mamble's Pension, 10-1 Happy Wanderer

7.30 AMETHYST CLAIMING STAKES
7f £1,932 (12 declared)

1 (10) 053050 Effervescence (17) (D) R Hannon 3-9-8 ...... Dane O'Neill
2 (7) 256000 Just Lost (25) (CD) K Burke 3-9-6 ...... R Mullen (5)
3 (5) 420035 Pericles (4) (CD) M Johnston 3-9-6 ...... D Holland
4 (2) 000614 Greatest (53) (D) Gay Kelleway 6-9-4 ...... G Duffield ★
5 (6) 005010 Oberon's Dart (30) (CD) P Makin 4-9-4 ...... Paul Eddery
6 (8) 011300 Tea Party (21) (CD) K Cunningham-Brown 4-9-3 S Drowne ★
7 (12) 1-6040 Move With Edes (61) (CD) W G M Turner 5-8-12 ...... D Sweeney (3)
8 (3) 013644 Bold Aristocrat (28) R Hollinshead 6-8-10 ...... A Culhane
9 (3) 0-0000 My Godson (29) (D) M Dods 7-8-10 ...... C Teague (3) ★
10 (4) 233000 Rock Island Line (23) (D) J Berry 3-8-8 ...... C Lowther (5)
11 (11) 114500 Countless Times (28) W Muir 3-8-6 ...... Jo Hunnam (5)
12 (1) 002035 Crystal Heights (56) (D) R O'Sullivan 9-8-6 ...... S Whitworth

Betting: 3-1 Greatest, 5-1 Pericles, 11-2 Effervescence, 7-1 Oberon's Dart, Tea Party, Move With Edes, 8-1 Just Lost.

8.00 CARL LLEWELLYN MEMORIAL HANDICAP
1m 1f 79yds £3,101 (13 declared)

1 (13) 014611 Farmost (4) (6lb ex) (CD) M Prescott 4-10-8 ...... G Duffield
2 (8) 012300 Heights Of Fame (4) (C) J Hetherton 6-9-9 ...... M Tebbutt
3 (11) 164800 West And Sea (71) (C) R Hollinshead 3-9-5 ...... D Griffiths (3)
4 (2) 000200 Zermatt (14) M Usher 7-9-2 ...... R Adams
5 (6) 666030 Kristal Bridge (12) P Harris 3-9-2 ...... W J O'Connor ★
6 (7) 545-00 Newbridge Boy (87) (C) M Meagher 4-9-1 ...... J F Egan
7 (3) 056548 Grovefair Lad (42) S Bowring 3-9-0 ...... C Teague (3)
8 (12) 110600 Captain's Day (131) H Collingridge 5-9-0 ...... G Faulkner (5)
9 (4) 0-6400 Perpetual Light (16) J J Quinn 4-8-13 ...... S Drowne
10 (1) 24-0 Classic Form (92) I Campbell 4-8-13 ...... A Mackay
11 (5) 402534 Sonne Ville (60) (C) B Palling 3-8-12 ...... B Hardin (3)
12 (10) EER-00 Thalerus (19) J Wainwright 7-8-11 ...... Dean McKeown
13 (9) 025612 Legal Issue (32) (C) W Haigh 5-8-10 ...... A Culhane

Betting: 5-2 Farmost, 4-1 Legal Issue, 6-1 Kristal Bridge, 8-1 Zermatt, 10-1 Captain's Day, 12-1 Heights Of Fame, 14-1 West And Sea, Perpetual Light, 16-1 Others.

8.30 DIAMOND HANDICAP
1m 4f £5,495 (12 declared)

1 (4) -04040 Night City (14) K Burke 6-9-13 ...... D Sweeney (3)
2 (11) /563-0 Arctic Thunder (6) (D) B Palling 6-9-12 ...... Dane O'Neill
3 (10) 341061 Opera Buff (9) (CD) Gay Kelleway 6-9-12 ...... J Wilkinson (7)
4 (3) 124350 China Castle (58) (C) (D) P Haslam 4-9-5 ...... P Goode (7)
5 (5) 460335 Hill Farm Dancer (117) (CD) W M Brisbourne 6-9-1 ...... D Griffiths (3)
6 (8) 00640- Classic Eagle (344) I Campbell 4-9-1 ...... A Mackay
7 (8) 131560 Slow Forum (12) (CD) L Montague Hall 6-8-13 R Ffrench (3)
8 (12) 034530 Polar Champ (24) S Woods 4-8-12 ...... G Duffield ★
9 (7) 221153 Mister Aspecto (37) (D) M Johnston 4-8-12 ...... D Holland ★
10 (9) 113030 Johnnie The Joker (17) (C) J Leigh 6-8-10 C Teague (3) ★
11 (1) 000051 Master Millfield (8) (C) C Hill 5-8-6 ...... R Mullen (5)
12 (2) 31-523 Bonnie Lassie (128) (BF) C Thornton 3-7-13 ...... L Charnock

Betting: 7-2 Opera Buff, 5-1 Master Millfield, 7-1 China Castle, Mister Aspecto, 8-1 Glow Forum, Johnnie The Joker, 10-1 Polar Champ.

9.00 JACK KIRKLAND MEMORIAL SELLING STAKES 2YO
5f £1,725 (9 declared)

1 (8) 445010 Russian Romeo (32) B McMahon 9-2 ...... S Righton (7) ★
2 (5) 400620 Poetto (24) B Meehan 8-11 ...... M Tebbutt ★
3 (5) 041365 Rock From The Sun (14) (C) W G M Turner 8-11 ...... D Sweeney (3) ★
4 (4) 5501 Super Geil (26) (D) C Dwyer 8-11 ...... D Holland
5 (7) 0 Abstone Pet Girl (4) P Evans 8-6 ...... J F Egan
6 (2) 533430 I'm Not Sure (28) (BF) J Berry 8-6 ...... M Adams
7 (6) 504 Rare Indigo (19) J Berry 8-6 ...... C Lowther (5)
8 (3) 80 Remember Frimley (8) C Hill 8-6 ...... R Mullen (5)
9 (1) 04602 Satis (4) M Channon 8-6 ...... A Culhane

Betting: 5-2 Super Geil, 4-1 Poetto, 9-2 Russian Romeo, 5-1 Rare Indigo, 6-1 Rock From The Sun, 10-1 I'm Not Sure, 14-1 Satis, 20-1 Others.

9.30 RUBY HANDICAP STAKES
6f £2,070 (13 declared)

1 (7) 520000 Gadge (14) (D) A Bailey 6-10-0 ...... R Ffrench (3)
2 (6) 330145 Mike's Double (42) (CD) Gay Kelleway 3-9-12 A Whelan (3) ★
3 (3) 0-0262 Thordis (50) (D) P Makin 4-9-9 ...... D Holland ★
4 (8) 401240 Village Native (4) (C) (D) K Cunningham-Brown 4-9-9 ...... P P Murphy (3) ★
5 (10) 0654-6 Burgill Times (266) D Shaw 3-9-8 ...... J Fanning
6 (12) 000304 Hannah's Usher (14) (CD) C Murray 5-9-7 ...... Nicola Howarth
7 (5) 000220 Don't Worry Mike (19) J Spearing 3-9-7 ...... A Culhane
8 (4) 303004 Will To Win (24) (CD) P Murphy 3-9-6 ...... S Drowne
9 (11) 000000 Leigh Crofter (14) (C) (D) P Cundell 6-9-5 ...... R Perham
10 (1) 330020 Little Ibnr (14) (CD) P Cundell 6-9-5 ...... J Lowe
11 (13) 000000 Grosso Cymres (19) (D) B Palling 4-9-5 ...... Dane O'Neill
12 (9) 40-000 Bicton Park (26) K Comerford 3-9-4 ...... W J O'Connor ★
13 (2) 20-210 Figlia (26) (C) J L Harris 3-9-4 ...... Dean McKeown ★

Betting: 7-2 Gadge, 5-1 Thordis, 7-1 Little Ibnr, 8-1 Hannah's Usher, Will To Win, Figlia, 10-1 Village Native.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level Stk
J Weaver	58	278	20.9	+37.15
S Sanders	39	323	12.1	-37.74
L Dettori	32	157	20.4	-38.92
B Carter	31	224	13.8	-44.19
K Darley	28	116	24.1	+29.70
G Duffield	24	164	14.6	-32.56
F Lynch	24	224	10.7	-66.29

Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level Stk
R Hollinshead	60	562	10.7	-172.29
M Johnston	51	219	23.3	+38.78
J Berry	42	289	14.5	-98.71
A Bailey	34	284	12.5	-89.90
P Haslam	31	173	17.9	-23.70
P Evans	27	294	9.29	-51.80
B McMahon	24	221	10.9	+2.00

Nottingham runners and riders

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.15	Meilleur	Casual Water
2.45	Silver Kristal	Mozambique
3.15	Sky Rocket	Sky Rocket (nb)
3.50	Levelled	Suite Factors
4.25	Mercury Falling	Kettlesing
4.55	Virtuous	Virtuous
5.25	Onefortheditch	Smart Spirit

Left-handed, level 1½m track with 4½f run-in. Straight 6f.
Going: Good. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: *High numbers favoured in sprints.*
Long distance travellers: Casual Water (2.15) A Newcombe, Devon, 222 miles.
Seven day winners: 3.50 Levelled.
Blinkered first time: 3.50 Chill Concerto. **Visored:** 4.25 Zeppo, Mariana.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing

2.15 FUN FAIR HANDICAP
1m 6f 15yds £4,016 (18 declared)

1 (10) 150155 Salska (68) (CD) A Streeter 6-9-10 ...... J Fowle (7)
2 (17) 6-5004 Taufan Boy (24) P Harris 4-9-7 ...... M Fenton
3 (4) 3/005- Shift Again (J168) O Sherwood 5-9-6 ... Sophie Mitchell ★
4 (11) 605005 Casual Water (17) A Newcombe 6-9-6 ...... S Drowne
5 (16) -58002 Alpine Panther (7) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-4 ...... A Culhane
6 (18) 52435 Mountaineer (127) (BF) M Bell 3-9-4 ...... G Faulkner (5)
7 (14) 0-3320 Mystic Quest (108) (BF) K McAuliffe 3-9-4 ...... M Tebbutt
8 (15) 0-4000 Copper Shell (18) A P Jones 3-9-2 ...... P P Murphy (3)
9 (1) 000553 Ela-Yie-Mou (13) (CD) S Dow 4-9-2 ...... P Doe (7)
10 (7) 00-015 Jawah (92) (D) K Mahdi 3-9-2 ...... C Lowther (5)
11 (8) 603200 Lime Street Blues (17) (C) T Keddy 6-9-1 ...... N Day
12 (6) 003161 Veronica Franco (17) (D) P Hedger 4-8-12 ...... A McGlone
13 (9) 400000 Rival Bid (18) Mrs N Macauley 9-8-12 ...... S Webster
14 (5) 50003 Meilleur (25) Lady Herries 3-8-11 ...... W Ryan
15 (2) 103003 Mr Speculator (14) J Banks 4-8-10 ...... J Quinn ★
16 (3) 3/1255 Children's Choice (13) (D) W Musson 6-8-10 . S Whitworth
17 (12) -03104 The Boundsills (15) R Johnson Houghton 3-8-6 ...... J Stack
18 (13) 0/04-6 New Inn (16) (CD) S Gollings 6-8-5 ...... T Williams

Betting: 6-1 Alpine Panther, 7-1 Veronica Franco, 8-1 Taufan Boy, Casual Water, 10-1 Mountaineer, Jawah, 12-1 Mystic Quest, Ela-Yie-Mou, Mr Speculator, The Boundsills

2.45 ROLLER COASTER MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
6f £4,175 (10 declared)

1 (6) Barrow Creek G Wragg 9-0 ...... A Clark
2 (9) Democrat Sv M Prescott 9-0 ...... C Rutter
3 (4) 3 Mozambique (13) Mrs J Cecil 9-0 ...... J Stack
4 (6) 264 Noballino (17) Mrs N Macauley 9-0 ...... S Drowne
5 (1) 065 Beancatcher (65) M Heaton-Ellis 8-9 ...... R Perham
6 (2) 2-53 Dark Mile (17) (BF) J Gosden 8-9 ...... A McGlone
7 (7) 00 Hamleys (13) D Morris 8-9 ...... N Day
8 (3) 040404 Melbourne Princess (46) R Whitaker 8-9 ...... Dean McKeown
9 (8) 4-4522 Silver Kristal (13) R Akehurst 8-9 ...... W Ryan
10 (10) -23222 Tiltsar (28) B Hanbury 8-9 ...... C Lowther (5)

Betting: 3-1 Silver Kristal, 9-2 Mozambique, Dark Mile, Tiltsar, 8-1 Barrow Creek, Noballino, 12-1 Melbourne Princess, 14-1 Others.

3.15 LEVY BOARD DODGEMS MAIDEN STAKES 2YO
6f £4,551 (17 declared)

1 (5) 0 Algabra (17) R Hannon 9-0 ...... R Perham
2 (13) Bedevilled M Heaton-Ellis 9-0 ...... S Drowne
3 (14) Crofters Edge A Jarvis 9-0 ...... C Lowther (5)
4 (12) Dog Watch J Gosden 9-0 ...... A McGlone
5 (10) 46 Great Melody (7) J Eustace 9-0 ...... J Tate
6 (6) 00 Have A Break (47) C Egerton 9-0 ...... S Whitworth
7 (7) Il Destino P Makin 9-0 ...... J Quinn
8 (15) 50 Persiano (19) J Fanshawe 9-0 ...... N Day
9 (3) 0 Prince Batshoof (98) M Bell 9-0 ...... A Culhane
10 (1) 02 Ray of Sunshine (54) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 ...... G Pears
11 (2) 0 Sevres (22) B Smart 9-0 ...... J Stack
12 (17) 2 Sky Rocket (21) M Stoute 9-0 ...... W Ryan
13 (8) The Woodcock B Hills 9-0 ...... J D Smith (3)
14 (16) Gam P Makin 8-9 ...... A Clark
15 (4) Girlie Set M Prescott 8-9 ...... C Rutter
16 (11) 0 Only In Dreams (11) B Meehan 8-9 ...... M Tebbutt
17 (9) Friddy Green H Candy 8-9 ...... C Rutter

Betting: 11-10 Sky Rocket, 7-1 Dog Watch, Ray Of Sunshine, 14-1 Great Melody, Persiano, The Woodcock, Girlie Set.

3.50 AUTUMN HANDICAP
6f £5,995 (14 declared)

1 (11) 112601 Distinctive Dream (12) (D) K Ivory 9-7 ... C Lowther (5) ★
2 (10) -02000 Chill Concerto (58) P Makin 9-4 ...... W Ryan ★
3 (9) 423032 At Large (17) J Fanshawe 9-1 ...... N Day
4 (5) 450000 Zaguli (8) (D) K Mahdi 9-1 ...... M Fenton
5 (1) 143002 Caution (10) (D) S Gollings 9-0 ...... T Williams
6 (14) 420531 Levelled (6) (D) M Channon 9-0 ...... P P Murphy (3)
7 (4) 030606 Swino (16) P Evans 8-13 ...... A Culhane
8 (2) 004500 Loving And Giving (12) H Candy 8-12 ...... C Rutter ★
9 (8) 311300 Raffles Spinney (58) (D) R Hannon 8-11 ...... R Perham
10 (13) 541100 Bass Lad (32) (D) J J Quinn 8-9 ...... S Drowne
11 (12) -23600 Frederick James (78) M Heaton-Ellis 8-9 ...... A Clark
12 (6) 005510 Mouche (6) (CD) Mrs J Ramsden 8-8 ...... Dean McKeown
13 (7) -50430 Sylvan Dancer (45) C Wall 7-11 ...... Dale Gibson
14 (3) 343430 Suite Factors (7) (C) K Burke 7-10 ...... J Quinn

Betting: 5-1 Caution, 6-1 Distinctive Dream, 13-2 At Large, Mouche, 7-1 Levelled, 8-1 Sylvan Dancer, Suite Factors.

4.25 MERRY-GO-ROUND NURSERY HANDICAP
5f £3,470 (16 declared)

1 (16) 320133 High Gain (58) (D) P Howling 9-7 ...... C Rutter
2 (3) 005 Night Auction (11) B Palling 9-6 ...... B Hardin (3)
3 (4) 550041 Kettlesing (16) (D) M W Easterby 9-3 ...... G Parkin (3) ★
4 (15) 501 Take A Risk (18) (D) M Johnston 9-3 ...... Dean McKeown
5 (2) 000450 Allanella (18) B Palling 9-1 ...... N Day
6 (13) 630 Bais (53) H Morrison 9-1 ...... W Ryan
7 (8) 500 Zeppo (14) M Heaton-Ellis 9-1 ...... S Drowne ★
8 (6) 004 Mike's Rock Ape (18) R Brotherton 9-1 ... P P Murphy (3)
9 (10) 6300 Wishbone Alley (37) M Dods 9-0 ...... A Culhane
10 (1) 000 I Cried For You (32) R Hannon 9-0 ...... R Perham
11 (7) 040 Mercury Falling (53) D Arbuthnot 8-13 ...... S Whitworth
12 (8) 0200 Kathies Pet (31) R Hodges 8-10 ...... J Quinn
13 (11) 060 Wild Lilly (105) M Ryan 8-9 ...... A Clark
14 (13) 30500 Mariana (12) R Whitaker 8-8 ...... J Stack ★
15 (5) 040000 Elsinore (19) Mrs J Ramsden 8-7 ...... DOUBTFUL
16 (14) 065 Kastone (66) J Eustace 8-2 ...... J Tate ★

Betting: 4-1 Kettlesing, 9-2 High Gain, 11-2 Take A Risk, 7-1 Elsinore, 8-1 I Cried For You, 10-1 Night Auction, Mercury Falling, Kathies Pet, Mariana.

4.55 E.B.F. HELTER SKELTER MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO
1m 54yds £4,598 (14 declared)

1 (4) Absentee W Jarvis 8-11 ...... M Tebbutt
2 (10) 00 Freckles (44) M Ryan 8-11 ...... A Clark ★
3 (11) 0 Kernes Bridge (11) A Jarvis 8-11 ...... C Lowther (5)
4 (8) 0 La Galleria (15) J S Moore 8-11 ...... P P Murphy (3)
5 (3) 44 Marsaba (33) M Johnston 8-11 ...... Dean McKeown
6 (9) 54 Migrate (86) (BF) J Gosden 8-11 ...... A Garth
7 (2) Miss Lacroix R Hollinshead 8-11 ...... D Hayden (7)
8 (5) 0 On Call (12) M Prescott 8-11 ...... C Rutter
9 (8) 0 Perfect Lady (11) J Eustace 8-11 ...... J Tate
10 (13) Rabea J Dunlop 8-11 ...... M Fenton
11 (1) 5534 Rallyva (18) B Hanbury 8-11 ...... J Stack
12 (7) 50254 Relate (17) M Meade 8-11 ...... B Hardin (3)
13 (14) Tajawuz S bin Suroor 8-11 ...... A McGlone
14 (12) 34 Virtuous (23) M Stoute 8-11 ...... W Ryan

Betting: 11-8 Virtuous, 3-1 Tajawuz, 6-1 Migrate, 10-1 Rallyva, 12-1 Marsaba, 14-1 On Call, 20-1 Absentee, Rabea, Relate.

5.25 CAROUSEL LIMITED STAKES
1m 1f 213yds £3,062 (15 declared)

1 (7) 613433 Augustan (11) (D) S Gollings 6-8-8 ...... T Williams
2 (8) 120100 Hill Farm Blues (82) (CD) W M Brisbourne 4-8-5 ... A Garth
3 (10) 821205 Passing Strangers (8) P Harris 4-9-5 ...... A Clark
4 (13) 53040- Classic Colours (J238) G Yardley 4-9-2 ...... V Slattery
5 (15) 00-00 Polonaise Prince (14) V Soane 4-9-2 ...... C Rutter
6 (9) /5003- Yaverland (298) John Berry 5-9-2 ...... M Tebbutt
7 (4) 20400- Zaaleff (432) K Mahdi 5-9-2 ...... J Stack
8 (14) 521430 Secret Ballot (19) (CD) K Mahdi 3-9-0 ...... M Fenton
9 (1) 5-1100 Onefortheditch (19) J Fanshawe 4-8-13 ...... T Varley
10 (3) -22000 Aficionado (116) R Hodges 3-8-11 ...... J Quinn
11 (5) 566431 Falls O'Moness (15) K Burke 3-8-11 ...... C Lowther (5)
12 (2) 000000 Jonfy (18) R Ingram 3-8-11 ...... A McGlone
13 (11) 003003 Ortelius (3) R Hannon 3-8-11 ...... R Perham
14 (6) 645002 Arletty (12) H Cecil 3-8-8 ...... W Ryan ★
15 (12) -20443 Smart Spirit (77) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 3-8-8 ...... A Culhane

Betting: 4-1 Arletty, 9-2 Smart Spirit, 5-1 Falls O'moness, 8-1 Augustan, Secret Ballot, Onefortheditch, 10-1 Passing Strangers, Ortelius.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level Stk
L Dettori	28	143	19.6	-7.03
K Fallon	24	152	15.8	-18.97
Pat Eddery	21	96	21.9	-36.29
G Duffield	20	129	15.5	+2.22
T Sprake	18	132	13.6	+76.37

Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level Stk
H Cecil	20	68	29.4	-13.70
J Dunlop	20	119	16.8	-30.32
Mrs Ramsden	14	93	15.1	-2.42
M Prescott	12	42	28.6	+43.37
R Hannon	12	158	7.60	-95.52
J Gosden	10	43	23.3	+3.25

Results

NEWMARKET

2.05 (1m 4f): 1, MONS, L Dettori (3-1); **2, Memorise** (7-2); **3, The Fly** (10-11 fav). 4 ran. 1¾, sh hd. (L Cumani) Tote: £3.50. Dual F: £4.30. CSF: £11.53.
2.35 (7f): 1, AL MUALLIM, A McGlone (4-1 fav); **2, Madly Sharp** (7-1); **3, Mr Sponge** (16-1). 13 ran. 1¾, hd. (J Payne) T: £4.90; £2.10, £2.50, £4.00. DF: £16.80. Trio: £141.50. CSF: £27.07. Tricast: £390.93.
3.05 (7f): 1, HAAMI, R Hills (5-1); **2, Bintang** (7-2); **3, Aix En Provence** (33-1). 15-8 fav Abreeze. 8 ran. 1½, 1½. (J Dunlop) Tote: £5.80; £1.80, £1.40, £3.60. Dual F: £13.30. CSF: £20.76.
3.40 (1m 2f): 1, KEWARRA, T Sprake (7-2 jt-fav); **2, Silverani** (6-1); **3, Fantail** (10-1). 7-2 jt-fav Ihdiyati. 8 ran. 3, 1. (B Millman) Tote: £5.50; £1.60, £2.00, £2.30. Dual F: £13.20. Trio: £30.50. CSF: £17.55. Tricast: £132.60. NR: Desert Horizon.
4.15 (6f): 1, BOWDEN ROSE, D Sweeney (14-1); **2, Plaisir d'Amour** (100-30 fav); **3, Almasi** (11-2). 9 ran. 1¾, 1¾. (M Blanshard) T: £13.90; £2.50, £1.50, £1.60. DF: £33.80. Trio: £52.70. CSF: £54.65. Tricast: £267.99.
4.50 (1m): 1, STRAZO, R Cochrane (6-4 fav); **2, Midyan Call** (6-1); **3, Great Child** (6-1). 6 ran. 2, 4. (Lady Herries) Tote: £2.70, £1.40, £3.40. Dual F: £10.20. CSF: £9.52. NR: Change For A Buck.
JACKPOT: £22,725, £28,807, carried over.
PLACEPOT: £202.30. **QUADPOT:** £27.50.

LINGFIELD

1.55 (6f): 1, IRIS MAY, J Weaver (3-1); **2, Missed The Cut** (15-8); **3, Saccheti** (16-1). 7-4 fav Braganza. 6 ran. ¾, 1. (J Berry) Tote: £4.60; £1.70, £1.40. Dual F: £2.90. CSF: £8.62.
2.25 (6f): 1, DERNIER CROISE, M Tebbutt (5-1); **2, Circuiteer** (9-1); **3, Impulsive Decision** (6-1). 7-2 fav Legal Lark. 12 ran. Nk, ¾. (B Meehan) Tote: £5.80; £2.20, £2.40, £2.30. Dual F: £26.80. Trio: £46.80. CSF: £47.89. NR: Blue Shadow, Means Business, Opening Night.
2.55 (6f): 1, DARING DEREK, O Peslier (11-10 fav); **2, Jila** (15-8); **3, Hever Golf Ranger** (25-1). 14 ran. 2, 1¾. (D Loder) Tote: £2.50; £1.40, £1.20, £3.70. Dual F: £2.10. Trio: £43.40. CSF: £2.95. NR: Dangerus Precedent.
3.30 (7f): 1, LAUREN'S LAD, N Adams (9-1); **2, Up The Wall** (12-1); **3, Mohawk** (12-1); **4, Miss Moffett** (25-1). 8-11 fav Bahamian Melody. 16 ran. 3½, ¾, nk. (G Lewis) Tote: £11.50; £1.70, £3.60, £3.30, £3.90. Dual F: £56.40. Trio: £514.30. CSF: £113.88. Tricast: £800.58. NR: Ocean Line, Saxon Victory.
4.00 (7f): 1, BOLD TINA, C Lowther (2-1 fav); **2, Churchill's Shadow** (12-1); **3, Loxley's Girl** (25-1). 15 ran. 1, 2. (R Hannon) Tote: £3.10; £1.30, £4.80, £20.90. Dual F: £88.50. Trio: £1,472.20. CSF: £29.42. Tricast: £496.46. NR. Homestead.
4.35 (1m 6f): 1, CRYSTAL HILLS, G Hind (4-1); **2, Spartan Heartbeat** (1-2 fav); **3, Bawara** (8-1) 8 ran. 1¾, 4 (J Gosden) Tote: £5.70, £1.10, £1.50, £1.20. Dual F: £1.80. Trio: £5.70. CSF: £5.86. NR: Gally Grecian.
5.10 (1m 3f 106yds): 1, RANDOM KINDNESS, Mr L Jefford (13-1); **2, Civil Liberty** (15-8 fav), **3, Laurel Seeker** (15-2). 11 ran. ¾, 1 (R Ingram) Tote: £14.80; £3.00, £1.40, £1.90. Dual F: £17.90. Trio: £39.90. CSF: £31.86. NR: Sarum.
PLACEPOT: £120.80. **QUADPOT:** £19.90.

HEXHAM

2.15: 1, BERNERA, E Husband (8-1); **2, Pentland Squire** (1-8 fav); **3, Another Picea** (25-1). 4 ran. Sh hd, 27. (J Mackie) Tote: £44.30. Dual F: £2.20. CSF: £9.70. NR. Goldliner Allie, Toshiba Talk.
2.45: 1, FLYING NORTH, P Niven (1-2 fav); **2, Jumbo's Dream** (50-1); **3, Squandamania** (50-1). 6 ran. 23, 5. (Mrs M Reveley) Tote: £1.60; £1.30, £2.80. Dual F: £8.20. CSF: £22.80.
3.20: 1, SALEM BEACH, M Moloney (16-1); **2, Marble Man** (7-2); **3, All Clear** (7-1). 3-1 fav Another Red. 8 ran. ¾, ¾. (Martin Todhunter) Tote: £20.50; £3.30, £1.40, £1.20. Dual F: £29.00
3.50: 1, NONIOS, N Hannity (5-6 fav); **2, Western Venture** (11-1); **3, Meadowleck** (25-1). 10 ran. 4, 14 (G Moore) Tote: £1.80: £1.20, £2.20, £3.30. Dual F: £21.10. Trio: £113.00. CSF: £12.60. CSF: £68.72. Tricast: £403.03.
4.25: 1, TIGHTER BUDGET, A Dobbin (85-40 fav); **2, Jonaem** (20-1); **3, Dalesman** (16-1). 8 ran. 2½, 29. (Mrs Dianne Sayer) Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £6.60, £2.00. Dual F: £59.30. Trio: £229.40. CSF: £37.45. Tricast: £506.40. *NR: Seeking Gold.*
5.00: 1, GALE AHEAD, B Storey (5-6 fav); **2, Arctic Fox** (8-1); **3, Castle Red** (5-1). 7 ran. ¾, 12. (G Moore) T: £1.70; £1.20, £3.30. DF: £6.20. CSF. £8.58.
5.30: 1, CHAPARRO AMARGOSO, M H Naughton (6-1); **2, Excursion** (10-1); **3, Ben Doula** (11-4). 6-4 fav Certain Shot. 7 *ran. 8, ¾ (B Ellison) Tote: £5.70; £2.00, £4.30.* Dual F: £41.60. CSF: £59.29.
PLACEPOT: £1,516.80. **QUADPOT:** £21.60

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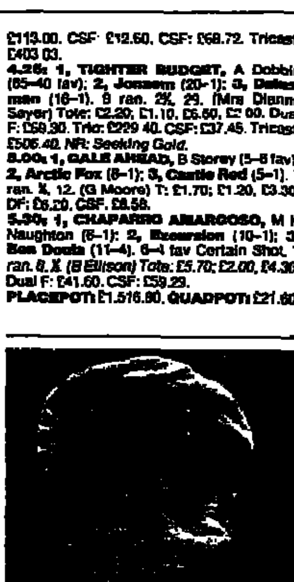
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Rugby Union

Brive recall brawl victim

Ian Malin

PHILIPPE CARBONNEAU, the scrum-half at the centre of the storm between Brive and Pontypridd last month, has been recalled for the vital Heineken Cup visit of Bath tomorrow.

The cup holders Brive left Carbonneau out of the side when they visited Pontypridd last weekend. The French international was accused of kicking Pontypridd's Dale McIntosh in the torrid first leg and was later injured in the bar-room brawl in the French town, an incident that has shamed the tournament.

Victory for unbeaten Bath, who beat Brive 27–25 at the Recreation Ground a fortnight ago, would secure the English side an automatic quarter-final berth.

In-form Bath, whose own scrum-half and captain Andy Nicol may play his first game of the season after injury, have secured the services of Dave Alred, Britain's top goal-kicking coach. Alred, released by Newcastle, has signed a two-year contract but his club commitments will not prevent him from working in the new-look England set-up; he was brought on board this week by the national coach Clive Woodward.

Cardiff visit Harlequins, the unbeaten Pool D leaders, promising that there will be no acrimony from their controversial meeting at the Arms Park a fortnight ago.

Cardiff were incensed when Harlequins cited their lock Tony Rees for allegedly kicking the Welsh international Gareth Llewellyn. The former Brive lock Rees has since received a 90-day ban and on Thursday saw his subsequent appeal quashed.

But Cardiff's captain Jon Humphreys promised: "There will be no hangover from the first game. We are in a professional era and, although we are disappointed with what happened to Tony, it will not spill over into Saturday's match."

Swansea's dwindling hopes of qualifying from Pool B have not been helped by injuries to their captain Garin Jenkins and fly-half Arwel Thomas. Both are likely to miss today's visit of Glasgow.

Robert Armstrong on the straight-running Leicester centre who is inspiring the Tigers again after recovering from a horrific injury with the Lions

Greenwood as sturdy as English oak

Centre of excellence . . . Will Greenwood is in England's elite squad and is in line for a first cap PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

WILL Greenwood, the only non-cap in the Lions squad that beat South Africa in last summer's Test series, has the risk-taker's habit of getting caught in the eye of the storm.

Tall, fair and barnstorming, the 24-year-old Leicester centre copped a horrendous big hit when the Lions took on Free State in Bloemfontein. Greenwood went down like a sack of cement and, as he was carried off on a stretcher, was in a life-threatening condition before suddenly regaining consciousness after an agonising four minutes.

The incident, which put an end to Greenwood's otherwise splendid tour, reminded everyone just how dangerous top-class rugby can be even though players tend to be coolly off-hand about their injuries.

By mid-August the Leicester man, who faces Toulouse in today's crucial Heineken Cup encounter at Welford Road, was back in action for his club and by late September he had won a place in Clive Woodward's elite England squad of 23 which next month faces a daunting series of Tests against Australia, New Zealand (twice) and South Africa.

Probably the most incisive centre in the English game, Greenwood has been doing things his way ever since he conducted an intricate semaphore as a futures dealer on the Stock Exchange floor where he used to earn his living. Last season his straight running, whiplash passing and first-time tackling confirmed the wisdom of his decision to become a full-time player and he duly won a place in Fran Cotton's Lions squad.

"Let's hope I don't get struck by lightning twice," said Greenwood regarding Free State's knock-out blow. "At the time it was a bad experience but you don't have time to think in rugby — you just have to get on with it. Nowadays players develop quickly and, if you have the ability, your age does not come into it. I think I am ready to play for England but the next round of Tests seems a hell of a long way off.

"Leicester started slowly in the European Cup and we've picked up the pace a bit in our recent games, though we are still very far from being the finished article. We've disappointed ourselves by giving away late tries — in this competition scoring difference is crucial — but we are communicating better, the new lads are fitting in well and we are in good shape to play Toulouse, having already won at their place.

"If you give the French backs a bit of space they have a tremendous ability to nail down a half-chance. They are pacy from one to 15 and their ability to move the ball into space invariably produces a try. Sure, the French are physical, as we have seen, but that's nothing new to those of us in the Premiership where weight-training is helping players to produce bigger hits every week.

"Things like lines of running and ball handling tend to be God-given, though. They are not really something you can coach. French backs end up in the right place ready for the counter-attack. They read the game instinctively and they know where the ball will go. That is something you cannot find in a textbook."

> 'I felt rugby was a series of complicated equations. Now I run straight when I have the ball and tackle hard when the opposition have it'

Greenwood's will to win, honed to a sharp edge by the Lions, has been fostered in pressure-cooker conditions since he took up rugby as a nine-year-old. Reared in soccer-crazy Blackburn, he was educated at Sedbergh School and Durham University, where England's Tim Stimpson was one of his teammates. His friendship with another Lion, Austin Healey, with whom he shares a house, stretches back through England Students and Under-21s to their time at Waterloo.

However, Greenwood acknowledged that Woodward, the new coach, is bound to start with a clean slate when he picks the England team to play Australia on November 15. "Everything I have done last season or with the Lions will count for diddley. Someone like myself must start all over again and prove I can repeat the performances I gave for the Lions, and for Leicester.

"I'd be kidding myself if I said the Lions hadn't helped me get into this England squad. The Lions was a great experience but that chapter is now closed. England have a completely new management structure which means each individual has to start from scratch. The management have said, 'If you're playing badly, you're out', so you just have to keep playing well.

"At Leicester Bob Dwyer [the director of rugby] keeps telling us a great player is great every time he steps on the field. If you have four or five ordinary games, that makes you an ordinary player. Naturally no single coach has the golden key to how rugby should be played. Bob differs from Clive, who in turn differs from Jack [Rowell], and sometimes it takes a few minutes to remember who's in charge of a session. Still, the good thing is that Clive is trying to establish a national norm with all the club coaches, so they can help their players follow a standard style that will get them into the England side."

It was Dwyer's positive influence that allowed Greenwood, who was relatively anonymous with his previous club Harlequins, to blossom with the Tigers and England A, whom he led last season. "Before I went to Leicester I was a bit naive," he admitted.

"I felt rugby was a series of complicated equations. Now I cut out the fancy stuff, run straight when I have the ball and tackle hard when the opposition have it. Bob Dwyer showed what a simple game rugby really is. Whatever I achieve personally with Leicester or England, my attitude will be: have boots, will travel. You just have to keep plugging away to get anywhere."

● The Fijian Waisale Serevi replaces the injured Joel Stransky at fly-half for Leicester against Toulouse this afternoon. The Scottish international Craig Joiner is also injured and Mitch Read takes his place on the wing. Toulouse are without Emile Ntamack and Christophe Deylaud behind their scrum.

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Welsh clubs face new challenge

THE leading eight clubs in Wales will face opposition from South Africa, Canada, Namibia, Spain and Argentina in a £300,000 Challenge Trophy tournament to be played in two phases this season.

The Premier League clubs will be split into two pools of four to play a domestic round of matches before Christmas. The overseas teams will come to Wales in January to play in the second phase. Northern Transvaal will represent South Africa; Cordoba, Rosario and Tucaman will travel from Argentina, and national sides from Canada, Spain and Namibia will also play.

West Hartlepool have defended their decision to sack the England Under-21 prop Virgil Hartland, following alleged biting incidents in matches against Rotherham and Wakefield.

Second Division West Hartlepool's New Zealand coach Mike Brewer recommended that the club terminate the 20-year-old Hartland's two-year contract but the move was condemned by Hartland's agent, the former England prop Mike Burton, who has threatened legal action for what he termed "character assassination". The England Under-21 manager John Elliott has also questioned the decision.

But the club's executive chairman Andy Hindle said the hard-line stance would not change.

"I have been astonished by the reaction of some senior people in the game," said Hindle. "This comes at a time when foul play is in the headlines and yet we are being criticised for taking action. I would remind people that this decision has also hurt the club because we have lost any future transfer fee for the player.

"Rugby people know where to draw the line when it comes to forward play, and after playing 66 games for the All Blacks, Mike Brewer is well qualified to know what is right and wrong."

● The Scot Alan Hosie, the former international referee, has succeeded Tom Kiernan as chairman of the Five Nations Committee.

Hockey

Myburgh joins Loughtonians

Pat Rowley

OLD Loughtonians have brought off a major coup on the eve of the National League season by signing Bryan Myburgh, the tall South African goalkeeper rated third in the world, who will help compensate for the loss of their Olympic defender Julian Halls to Dutch hockey.

Tomorrow's opening games will have a liberal sprinkling of imports: the champions Reading have two Canadians and a Belgian, Southgate have three South Africans, two of whom have yet to arrive, and the cup holders Teddington have a Belgian, besides the England Under-21 captain Bret Garrard. Beeston and Doncaster, last season's promoted clubs, have Australian connections; Beeston await the return of Craig Keegan and Doncaster introduce Ryan McGraw.

Even the First Division has attracted overseas players seeking experience. Surbiton, the favourites to make a quick return to the Premier Division, have South Africa's Greg Nicol, the joint top scorer from the Atlanta Olympics; Sheffield have an Australian and South African, while promoted Chelmsford will have three Springboks joining the retained Mike Cullen.

The last three seasons have produced three different champions in Teddington, Cannock and Reading but it will be a surprise if this season's title winners are not among this group, although much depends on how many players each club provide for the the England squad as preparations intensify for May's World Cup.

Southgate may go close, however, and it will be interesting to see how the clubs with new coaches fare, Nic Thompson taking over at Old Loughtonians and Richard Leman at East Grinstead.

The Women's National League enters its third week with Slough and Clifton, among the title favourites, meeting at High Wycombe today. Both clubs have injury problems, including the Clifton captain Tammy Miller, who has a damaged calf.

Ice Hockey

National team funds cut on basis of results

Vic Batchelder

BRITAIN's failure last season either to qualify for the Nagano Olympics or to gain promotion to Pool A of the World Championships has resulted in the British Ice Hockey Association cutting funding on the national team.

"It's time to revise the structure of the GB team support staff and programme," said the association's secretary David Pickles.

An arrangement with Civic Leisure, owners of the Superleague club Basingstoke who employ the Great Britain coach Peter Woods, under which the association paid for Woods's time with the national squad, was no longer "relevant to needs of the GB team". "We need to commit the national team to Pool B."

Woods's job as national coach is now in doubt. Pickles said: "We won't be paying Civic Leisure for his services; we can't afford to."

Britain's next games will be in the World Championship Pool B tournament in Slovenia next April.

● Last season's Benson and Hedges Cup finalists Nottingham and Ayr meet in this year's quarter-final ties over two legs, on October 11 and 18. They also play each other in Superleague games tonight and on October 12. The draw for the other opening games is: Bracknell v Manchester, Newcastle v Basingstoke and Sheffield v Cardiff.

Squash

Jansher out of World Open

Richard Jago

JANSHER KHAN will not defend his World Open title in Kuala Lumpur next month after failing to reach agreement with his maintenance-seeking former wife. The Pakistani, who has won the world title a record eight times, faces a court order demanding a £1 million ringgit bond (£200,000) if he enters and leaves Malaysia again.

Jansher has not played in that country since the 1991 Malaysian Open, when a divorce petition was placed in his hand after a first-round match. His Malaysian former wife is understood to have obtained a court order demanding £500 a month over 18 years for their seven-year-old son.

"It is with deep regret Jansher has withdrawn from the World Open," said the player's adviser Satinder Bajwa. "This is entirely for personal reasons and neither I nor Jansher will be making any further comment."

Jansher's absence will increase the chances of a Briton winning the title for the first time. Scotland's Peter Nicol should now be seeded No. 1 or No. 2 and Simon Parke and Peter Marshall of England may also be in contention.

Australia's Rodney Eyles, the world No. 2, is likely to make one last effort to become the champion although the Canadian Jonathan Power, winner of the US Open a week ago, will probably be seeded No. 3.

Tennis

Rusedski and Henman in last four

Chris Bowers in Basle

FOR the second time this year — after Nottingham in June — two Britons will today appear in the last four of a tour event. Greg Rusedski will play Petr Korda in one semi-final of the Swiss Indoor tournament here and Tim Henman will meet Yevgeny Kafelnikov or Mark Philippoussis.

Workmanlike performances from the two British standard-bearers are keeping alive the possibility of the ATP Tour's first all-British final, though the vast empty spaces of the St Jakob arena, where the locals seem to spend more time drinking beer than watching the tennis, would be an inauspicious backdrop for the latest chapter in the revival of British tennis.

So focused are the two players that they are paying very little attention to each other, let alone the sparse crowds at the opening event of the tour's autumn indoor season.

Rusedski had the closer battle, going to three sets before edging out Thomas Enqvist 7–6, 4–6, 6–3 in a match which turned on just a couple of points. A Swedish backhand volley that drifted just into the tramlines gave Rusedski a crucial mini-break in the first-set tie-break and two big serves saw the British No. 1 home.

A break in the third game of the second set allowed Enqvist to get back on terms and, when he levelled the match at one set all, he looked the stronger player. Rusedski's ground strokes were regularly going way off target but he turned things round in the second game of the final set.

A stunning backhand down the line — one of the few backhands he genuinely hit through — gave him the break and, though he had to fend off two break points at 3–1, he was never behind in the decider and sealed victory with his 20th ace.

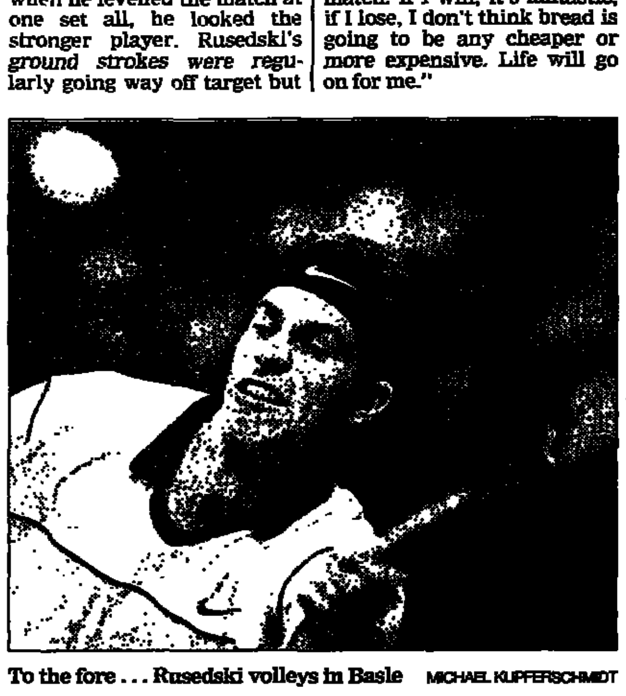
Henman was much more convincing in his comfortable 6–2, 6–3 win over Magnus Norman, the 21-year-old Swede who beat Pete Sampras at the French Open and Goran Ivanisevic at Wimbledon. The British No. 2 broke in the opening game and there were few occasions when Norman could hold serve with comfort.

Norman's one chance came when he had two break points at 1–1 in the second set but such is Henman's assurance that it was no surprise when he snuffed out the danger and promptly broke the Swede in the next game.

There is some piquancy to Rusedski's semi-final against Korda for the Briton has just taken on Tony Pickard as his coach, and Pickard's previous client was the 29-year-old Czech.

"I'm sure Tony can tell me a bit about him," said Rusedski, who has never played Korda before.

Korda, who is four months away from his 30th birthday and describes Pickard as "a second father", has a fairly relaxed attitude to the match. "I am going to play the way I'm playing and enjoy the match. If I win, it's fantastic; if I lose, I don't think bread is going to be any cheaper or more expensive. Life will go on for me."



To the fore . . . Rusedski volleys in Basle MICHAEL KUPFERSCHMIDT

Turning on the dog-power . . . no muzzling Some Picture's satisfaction as he engages top gear in the straight STEVE NASH

Some Picture panting to be first in million-pound frame

Chris Curtain on the greyhound haring after a unique Derby treble in Dublin tonight

THERE is, so the dog-racing people would have it and in an Irish manner of speaking, £1 million at stake tonight at Shelbourne Park track.

An English-owned speedster called Some Picture will attempt the last leg of a treble that has not been achieved since modern greyhound racing started in 1926 at Manchester's Belle Vue: all three of the sport's blue-riband "classic" championships — the English, Scottish and Irish Derby finals — and in a single season to boot.

In addition to an iron constitution and a lethal finish, Some Picture has what his owner Steve Spiteri calls "fierce gears" down the straight and a remarkable ability to hold that acceleration while cornering. No bends, no real dog racing: corners and the problems they set are what separate the winners from the merely fast.

So Some Picture will be loaded into a starting box — "trap" in the trade — and in the darkness that has suddenly enveloped him will immediately strain to hear the whirr of the wire-driven hare that is to lure him around four bends and 550 yards of floodlit sand for a prize which, with the addition of a sponsor's Triple Crown bonus, works out at £145,000.

That would boost his career winnings to £240,000 and take the world stakes record from an American dog. But it will be money hard earned. Some Picture has gone through this routine five times already in the past three weeks in Dublin, and had to live up to his "Iron Dog" label to win a place among the six finalists.

During the season he raced undefeated through all the elimination rounds before winning the finals of the £20,000 Scottish Derby in April and the £50,000 English Derby in June — the latter in record time and by the ridiculous margin of seven lengths.

But a long, lucrative season has taken its toll. Whatever happens in the space of 30 seconds tonight, this will be Some Picture's last race, and it is the projected stud fees he could command as a Triple Crown winner that justify the pre-race hype: come and see the world's first million-pound greyhound.

Like 80 per cent of the breed in Britain, Some Picture was born and raised in Ireland but race-day routines are the same the dog world over. Yesterday each would have had his taut muscles massaged and been fed a special meal. Tonight there will be keening yelps and whines from the six dogs in the traps, for these are all high-class racers and they know — and love — what comes next.

Spiteri, 36, will naturally be among the capacity all-ticket crowd of 7,000 — for a dog race! He is a man for whom the phrase "proud owner" could have been invented, not to mention "lucky owner". Whitechapel-born and Wapping-bred, Spiteri joined the London Metal Exchange 20 years ago as a messenger boy and now combines evenings of picking up large cheques at dog tracks with a day job as a City copper trader.

Like most in the enclosed and intense world of dog racing, Spiteri is in love with it, seeing personality in the dogs and drama in the races where outsiders see animated four-legged roulette. Good judgment in picking his purchases has played its part but, he admits, even now he can hardly believe his luck.

"Of the 30,000 dogs bred every year in Ireland, 90 per cent are moderate, nine per cent are good and one per cent are potentially great. It's every owner's dream to get into that one per cent," said Spiteri.

"Some owners spend their whole lives trying for a dog to win one classic and here I am going for the Triple Crown. When you get a dog like Some Picture . . ." — and here he broke off with an exhalation of breath and what can only be called a smirk — "I've been very lucky."

Rugby League

Oldham on brink of extinction

Andy Wilson

OLDHAM, one of the game's founding clubs in 1895, are in danger of extinction after applying for voluntary liquidation yesterday.

The Bears were relegated from the Super League in August and are believed to have debts of more than £1 million despite selling their major asset, the Watersheddings ground, to the local council for a seven-figure sum less than two years ago.

They were advanced £280,000 by the Rugby Football League in August to ease a fresh financial crisis but have still been unable to pay their players for seven weeks.

The few remaining administrative staff were made redundant yesterday, a sale was held in the club's town centre shop, and the players — Oldham's only remaining assets — are demanding to be declared free agents.

The Manchester accountants Parnell Kerr Forster have been appointed by the five directors, led by the chairman James Quinn, to call a meeting of creditors and shareholders, seeking permission to liquidate the club. They need the permission of 75 per cent of the shareholders.

Philip Long said on behalf of the accountants: "The club can still be rescued. We need to find if there are people interested in rugby league being played in Oldham."

There undoubtedly are, as a number of amateur clubs continue to thrive in the town, but taking on a professional club with such huge debts and no assets is hardly an attractive proposition. The decision to apply for liquidation follows the collapse earlier this week of talks with one consortium. The best hope for Oldham now is for that consortium to return before the shareholders meeting with a bid to place the club into administration, thereby keeping some of the players and, critically, their share of the game's £87 million contract with News Corporation — which falls from £900,000 to £350,000 with their relegation from the Super League to the First Division.

There may also be complications for the game as a whole as the contract with News Corporation includes a clause allowing Rupert Murdoch's organisation to pull out of the funding deal if any of the RFL's clubs go out of existence.

World club ch'ship, quarter-final
Auckland Warriors 62, Bradford Bulls 14

Elliott rounds on his 'busted' Bulls

BRADFORD Bulls' coach Matthew Elliott blamed indiscipline for their latest drubbing by the Auckland Warriors, who would have duplicated their earlier 64–14 rout of the Bulls if Sean Hoppe had not missed a simple last-minute conversion.

It was the fourth defeat in a row for the Super League champions, who tailed off towards the end of the season and lost all their qualifying games in the international tournament.

At half-time the Bulls were still in contention at 14–20, but after the break they fell apart and the Warriors ran in eight tries.

"Lack of discipline in the second half cost us dearly," Elliott admitted. "If any southern hemisphere side get that amount of possession they will punish you. There are a lot of tired people out there and a lot of busted people as well."

The Super League Coach of the Year added: "We had a lot of guys injured late in our preparation, and also lost a couple in the game."

The Bulls' hooker James Lowes was badly missed. The Man of Steel award-winner had a groin strain and without Glen Tomlinson, the scrum-half who withdrew before the flight from England, the Bulls were short of playmakers.

The towering Stephen Kearney, who had helped New Zealand beat Australia 30–12 last week, softened up the Bradford tackling as the Warriors went 20–2 up inside 28 minutes with tries by the half-backs Stacey Jones and Gene Ngamu and the winger Hoppe.

Bradford, watched by only 12,000 spectators in Auckland's Ericsson Stadium, hit back when Abi Ekoku intercepted a pass from Auckland's Wigan-bound forward Denis Betts and scored. The stand-off Graeme Bradley then supported a half-break by the loose forward Steve McNamara to cross for a second try, and McNamara's third goal cut the deficit to six points at the interval.

Ngamu came into his own as the Bulls tired in the second half, Ridge leading the scoring with two tries and nine goals from 12 attempts for a personal tally of 26 points. Hoppe scored a second try and there were others from Anthony Swann, Brady Malam, Syd Eru, Logan Swann and Marc Ellis.

Auckland Warriors: Ridge; Hoppe, A Swann, Endacott, Oudenryn; Ngamu, Jones; Malam, Eru, Vagana, Kearney, Betts, L Swann. **Substitutes:** Ellis, Horo, Guttenbiel, Tulmavave.
Bradford Bulls: Spruce; Scales, Peacock, Crouthers, Ekoku; Bradley, Paul; McDermott, Graham, Anderson, Forshaw, Nickle, McNamara. **Substitutes:** Donougher, Wittenberg, Reihana, Medley.
Referee: S Harrigan.

Weekend fixtures

(3.0 unless stated)
(a-t = all-ticket)

Football

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
Arsenal v Barnsley
Bolton v Aston Villa
Coventry v Leeds
Man Utd v Crystal Palace
Newcastle v Tottenham
Sheff Wed v Everton
Southampton v West Ham
Wimbledon v Blackburn
Tomorrow
Liverpool v Chelsea (4.0)

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Cheltenham v Northwich; Farnborough v Hayes; Halifax v Kettering; Hednesford v Kidderminster; Leek Tn v Slough; Morecambe v Dover; Rushden & D'monds v Woking; Stalybridge v Yeovil; Stevenage v Gateshead. Telford v Hereford; Welling v Southport.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division: Accrington Stanley v Boston Utd; Barrow v Spennymoor; Bishop Auckland v Hyde Utd; Blyth Spartans v Winsford Utd; Colwyn Bay v Guiseley; Emley v Chorley; Gainsborough v Radcliffe Borough; Lancaster v Altrincham; Leigh RMI v Frickley; Marine v Alfreton Tn; Runcorn v Bamber Bridge. **First Division:** Congleton Tn v Belper Tn, Farsley Celtic v Matlock Tn; Gretna v Lincoln Utd; Harrogate Tn v Great Harwood Tn; Netherfield v Eastwood Tn; Stocksbridge PS v Flixton; Trafford v Whitby Tn; Whitley Bay v Droylsden; Witton Albion v Bradford PA; Workington v Buxton; Worksop Tn v Ashton Utd.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Boreham Wood v Oxford C; Bromley v Purfleet; *Dag & Red v Chesham; Enfield v* Bishop's Stortford; Gravesend & N v Carshalton, Harrow Bor v St Albans; Hendon v Kingstonian; Heybridge v Basingstoke; Hitchin v Dulwich, Sutton Utd v Walton & Hersham, Yeading v Aylesbury. **First Division:** Abingdon Tn v Grays Ath; Aldershot Tn v Leatherhead. Barton Rvrs v Molesey; Berkhamsted Tn v Bognor Regis Tn; Billericay Tn v Wokingham Tn; Hampton v Romford; Leyton Pennant v Wembley; Maidenhead Utd v Uxbridge; Staines Tn v Whyteleafe; Thame Utd v Chertsey Tn; Worthing v Croydon. **Second Division:** Banstead Ath v Marlow; Canvey Island v Horsham, Met Police v Northwood; Tooting & Mitcham v Wivenhoe Tn. **Third Division:** Hertford Tn v Hornchurch.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Ashford Tn v Dorchester; Atherstone v Hastings; Bromsgrove v Cambridge C; Burton Alb v Sittingbourne; Crawley Tn v Forest Grn; Gloucester C v Kings Lynn; Gresley Rvrs v Bath; Merthyr v Halesowen; Rothwell Tn v Worcester C; Salisbury v Tamworth; St Leonards v Nuneaton. **Midland Division:** Bilston Tn v RC Warwick; Corby Tn v VS Rugby; Evesham Utd v Paget Rngrs; Grantham Tn v Raunds Tn; Ilkeston Tn v Brackley Tn, Redditch Utd v Blakenall; Solihull Bor v Stourbridge; Stafford Rngrs v Shepshed Dyn; Sutton Coldfield Tn v Hinckley Utd; Wisbech Tn v Bedworth Utd. **Southern Division:** *Baldock Tn v Yate Tn; Bashley v* Tonbridge Angels; Cinderford Tn v Dartford, Clevedon Tn v Margate; Fareham Tn v Weston-S-Mare; Fisher Ath London v Newport AFC; Havant Tn v Cirencester Tn; Newport I-O-W v Erith & Belvedere; Trowbridge Tn v Fleet Tn, Waterlooville v Witney Tn; Weymouth v Chelmsford C.

N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Division: Clitheroe v Newcastle Tn; Glossop NE v Atherton LR; Mossley v Warrington Tn, Nantwich Tn v Blackpool Rvrs.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE: First Division: Bedlington Ter v Seaham RS, Billingham Syn v Guisborough Tn; Dunston Fed v Tow Law Tn; *Murton v Durham C.*

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier Division: Denaby Utd v Brigg Tn; N Ferriby Utd v Curzon Ashton; Ossett Tn v Maltby MW

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier Division: Chippenham Tn v Mangotsfield Utd, Tiverton Tn v Bristol MF, Torrington v Taunton Tn.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
First Division
Birmingham v Crewe
Bradford C v Wolverhampton
Ipswich v Man City
QPR v Charlton
Reading v Sunderland
Stockport v Portsmouth
Stoke v Bury
Swindon v Port Vale
Tranmere v Norwich
West Brom v Oxford Utd
Tomorrow
Middlesbrough v Sheff Utd (1.0)
Second Division
Bristol Rovers v Wrexham
Burnley v Wycombe
Chesterfield v Bournemouth
Fulham v Oldham
Gillingham v Bristol City
Grimsby v Wigan
Luton v Watford
Millwall v Blackpool
Preston v Brentford
Southend v Northampton
Walsall v Carlisle
York v Plymouth
Third Division
Cardiff v Barnet
Chester v Hartlepool
Doncaster v Brighton
Exeter v Scarborough
Hull v Torquay
Leyton Orient v Macclesfield
Lincoln v Cambridge Utd
Mansfield v Colchester
Notts County v Darlington
Peterborough v Swansea
Rochdale v Scunthorpe
Shrewsbury v Rotherham

S-E COUNTIES LEAGUE (11.0): **First Division:** Arsenal v Watford: Cambridge Utd v Leyton Orient; Fulham v Gillingham; Ipswich v QPR; Millwall v Charlton Ath; Norwich C v Portsmouth; Tottenham v C Palace, West Ham v Southend Utd. **Second Division:** Bournemouth v Oxford Utd; Bristol Rvrs v Swindon; Colchester Utd v Barnet; Luton Tn v Brentford; Reading v Bristol C; Southampton v Tottenham; Wycombe v Wimbledon.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora Rngrs v Forrest Mechanics; Clachnacuddin v Wick Acad.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Cemaes v Barry Tn (2.30); Connah's Quay v Caersws (2.30); Conwy v Aberystwyth (2.0); Flint Tn v Inter Cable-T (2.30); Haverfordwest v Caernarfon Tn (2.30); Newtown v Bangor C (2.30); Porthmadog v Cwmbran (2.30); Rhayader Tn v Welshpool (2.30); Rhyl v Ebbw Vale; TNS v Carmarthen Tn (2.30).

IRISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Ards v Glenavon, Glentoran v Cliftonville; Linfield v Coleraine; Omagh Tn v Crusaders; Portadown v Ballymena. **First:** Bangor v *Ballyclare; Carrick v Dungannon Swifts;* Distillery v Larne; Limavady Utd v Newry.

FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Division (7.30): Derry C v Bohemians; Kilkenny C v Shamrock Rvrs. **Tomorrow:** St Patricks Ath v UCD (2.30).

Tomorrow

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National Division: Arsenal v Liverpool (2.0); Berkhamsted v Everton (2.0); Bradford v Millwall (2.0); Doncaster v Croydon (2.0); Tranmere Rvrs v Wembley (1.0).

Rugby League

SUPER LEAGUE WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-finals: *Brisbane v St* Helens (10.30). **Tomorrow:** London v Cronulla.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE (2.30). **Premier Div:** Dudley Hill v Askam; Egremont v Lock Lane; Leigh Miners v Heworth; Saddleworth v Beverley; W Hull v Oldham St Annes; Wigan St Pats v Walney; Woolston v *Mayfield.* **First:** Blackbrook v Skirlaugh; Eastmoor v E Leeds; Milford v Wigan St Judes; Millom v Oulton; Redhill v Barrow Is; Shaw Cross v Leigh E; Thornhill v Moldgreen. **Second:** Dewsbury Moor v Eccles; Dodworth v Siddal; London Stdts v York Acorn; New Earswick v Hull Dockers; Normanton v Crosfields; *Ovenden v Featherstone A.*

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE
Premier Division
Celtic v Kilmarnock
Dunfermline v Dundee Utd
Hibernian v Rangers
Motherwell v Hearts
St Johnstone v Aberdeen
First Division
Ayr v Stirling
Dundee v Airdrie
Greenock Morton v Raith
Hamilton v St Mirren
Partick v Falkirk
Second Division
Clyde v Livingston
Clydebank v Stranraer
East Fife v Queen of South
Forfar v Inverness Cal.
Stenhousemuir v Brechin
Third Division
Arbroath v Albion
Berwick v Cowdenbeath
East Stirling v Dumbarton
Queen's Park v Montrose
Ross County v Alloa

Rugby Union

HEINEKEN CUP: Pool A: Leicester v Toulouse; Leinster v Milan v Donnybrook. **Pool B:** Swansea v Glasgow (2.30). **Pool C:** Pontypridd v Scottish Borders (2.15). **Tomorrow:** Brive v Bath (1.10). **Pool D:** Bourgoin v Munster (2.0); Harlequins v Cardiff. **Pool E:** Treviso v Llanelli (2.0). **Tomorrow:** Caledonia v Pau.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE: Pool A: Ebbw Vale v La Rochelle (2.0). **Pool B:** Montferrand v Montpellier (8.0); Newport v Sale (2.0). **Pool C:** Dax v Stade Francais (7.0): Ldn Irish v Farul Constanta. **Pool D:** Connacht v Begles: Nice v Northampton (7.0). **Pool E:** Colomiers v Bridgend; *Grenoble v Richmond.* **Pool F:** Gloucester v Beziers: Toulon v Padova (7.0). **Pool G:** *Perpignan v Biarritz* (7.30). **Tomorrow:** Newcastle v Edinburgh. **Pool H:** Narbonne v Castres (6.30); Neath v Saracens (6.0).

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: Second Division: Bedford v Waterloo; Blackheath v Coventry; Exeter v W Hartlepool; Orrell v Fylde; Rotherham v Ldn Scottish; Wakefield v Moseley

RFU KNOCK-OUT CUP: Second round: Aspatria v Widnes; Birmingham/Solihull v Otley; Bracknell v Met Police; Broadstreet v Huddersfield; Cheltenham v Sevenoaks, Havant v Matson; Haywards Hth v Launceston; Henley v Camberley; Kendal v Harrogate, Lewes v N Walsham; Ldn Welsh v Clifton, Lydney v Amersham & Chiltern; Morley v Sally Oak; Northern v Tynedale; Nottingham v Doncaster; Preston G v Manchester; Rugby v Vagabonds IoM; Sandal v Nuneaton; Sheffield v Vale of Lune; St Ives v Barking; Staines v Banbury; Stourbridge v Taunton; Tabard v Rosslyn Pk; Weston-S-Mare v Newbury; Wharfedale v Wigton; Winchester v Reading; Winnington Pk v Liverpool St Helens; Worcester v Leeds.

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE (2.0): **First Division:** Blackwood v Pontypool; Bonymaen v Aberavon; Caerphilly v Treorchy; Cross Keys v Abertillery; Llandovery v Maesteg; Merthyr v UWIC; Rumney v Newbridge; S Wales Police v Dunvant.

SRU LEAGUE TROPHY: Group A: *Currie* v Hawick; Edinburgh A v Glasgow; Gala v Melrose; Kirkcaldy v Preston Lodge; Musselburgh v Heriots FP. **B:** Boroughmuir v Jed-Forest; Kilmarnock v Kelso, Peebles v Biggar; Stirling Co v Dundee HSFP; Watsonians v W of Scotland. **C:** Glenrothes v Grangemouth; Stewarts Mel FP v Gordonians. **D:** Ayr v Hillhead/Jordanhill; Glasgow Southern v Stewartry.

CLUB MATCH: Aberdeen GSFP v Selkirk.

Ice Hockey

SUPERLEAGUE: Basingstoke v Sheffield (6.30); Manchester v Cardiff (7.0); Nottingham v Ayr (7.0). **Tomorrow:** Ayr v Newcastle (5.30); Bracknell v Nottingham (6.0); Cardiff v Basingstoke (6.0).

BRITISH NATIONAL LEAGUE: Fife v Peterborough (7.0); Guildford v Murrayfield (6.0); Slough v Paisley (6.30), Telford v Lancashire (7.30). **Tomorrow:** Kingston v Slough (5.30); Lancashire v Guildford (6.0); Paisley v Fife (6.30); Peterborough v Telford (6.15).

Basketball

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham v London (7.30); Crystal Palace v Newcastle (7.30); Thames Valley v Watford (8.0); *Worthing v Derby* (8.0). **Tomorrow:** Chester v Thames Valley (5.30); Manchester v Leicester (6.30); Sheffield v Worthing (6.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First Division: Coventry v Oxford (7.30); Nottingham v Mid Sussex (8.0); Plymouth v Cardiff (7.30); Richmond v Westminster (7.30); Stevenage v Solihull (8.0); Teesside v Guildford (7.30). **Women: First Division:** Crystal Palace v Northampton (5.30); NW London v Thames Valley (7.30); Rhondda v Birmingham (6.30); Spelthorne v Ipswich (6.0).

Hockey

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: *Clydesdale v Inverleith;* Gordonians v Kelburne; Grange v Stepps; MIM v Mimtech Wndrs; Western v Watsonians.

MEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Cambs C v Cambs Univ; Colchester v Luton; Crostyx v Stortford; Ipswich v Sudbury; Peterboro v Clacton. **Midlands:** Hampton v Blossomfield, Harborne v Coventry NW: N Notts v N Staffs: Northampton S v Bloxwich; Nottingham v Edgbaston; Olton WW v Khalsa. **North:** Chester v Southport; Formby v Ben Rhydding; Shef Bankers v Norton; Swalwell v Durham Univ; Timperley v Harrogate. Wigan v Neston. **South:** Anchorians v Chichester; Beckenham v Trojans; City of Ports v Bournemouth; Fareham v Ramgarhia; Gore Crt v Wimbledon; Herne Bay v High Wycombe; Maidenhead v Winchester: O Whitgiftians v Eastcote; Purley v Woking; Richmond v Tun Wells. **West:** Exeter Univ v Bath Bucs; Robinsons v Clevedon; T Vale v Swansea; WSM v Bristol Univ; Whitchurch v Cheltenham.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Division: Ipswich v Hightown (12.0); Slough v Clifton (12.0, Crossex); Sutton C v Olton (11.30, Cannock HC); Trojans v Doncaster (1.30). **First Division:** Bracknell v Bradford (2.0); Canterbury v Wimbledon (12.0); Chelmsford v Loughboro S (2.15); Leicester v Bodens (12.30). **Second Division:** *Bluebarts v Aldridge* (12.30), *Ealing* v Sherwood (1.30); Old Loughtonians v W Witney (1.0); Poynton v Woking (1.30).

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: Midlands: Crimson R v Hampton; Kettering v Belper; Luton v Leicester; Pickwick v N Staffs. **North:** Blackburn v Chester; York v Sefton. **Tomorrow:** Sheffield v Walton; Winnington Pk v Leyland M. **South:** Hendon v Maidenhead; Horsham v Dulwich; Reading v Winchester: Southampton v Winchmore H; Tulse Hill v Hampstead. **Tomorrow:** Dulwich v Hendon; Hampstead v Southampton; Maidenhead v Winchmore H, Tulse Hill v Reading; Winchester v Horsham. **West:** Colwall v *Exeter;* Leominster v Yate; Redland v Bournemouth; St Austell v Cheltenham; T Vale v Exmouth. **Tomorrow: East:** BSE v Ipswich; St Albans v Ashford; Sevenoaks v Cambs C: WGC v Dereham.

Tomorrow

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Division: Beeston v *Southgate (2.0, Highfields);* Doncaster v Reading (2.0): East Grinstead v Canterbury (2.30); Guildford v Hounslow (12.0); Old Loughtonians v Cannock (1.30); Teddington v Barford T (1.30, Broom Rd). **First Division:** Hampstead v Oxford Univ (12.30, Paddington RG); Havant v Glos C (2.0, Burnaby Rd); Hull v Chelmsford (2.0, *Schultz SC); Indian Gym v Bluebarts (2.0);* Isca v Bournville (12.30); Lewes v Bromley (1.30); Loughboro Students v Brooklands (2.30); St Albans v Oxford Hawks (2.0); Sheffield v Surbiton (2.30); Stourport v Firebrands (2.30, Kidderminster HS), Warrington v Harleston M (1.30, Penketh HS).

EHA CUP: First round: Bath Bucs v Robinsons; City of Ports v Andover; Loughboro T v Edgbaston; Shef Bankers v Norton; Slough v Fareham, Trojans v Reading Eagles; Tun Wells v Anchorians.

REPRESENTATIVE (Long Sutton Pitch Opening, Peole Sc. 2.0): Long Sutton v East Invitation XI.

Results

Football

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Dag & Red 1, Hendon 1; Enfield 0, St Albans 2.

WORLD CUP QUALIFIER: Asian zone Group A: Iran 3, Qatar 0.

Rugby League

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
Quarter-final
Auckland (20) **62, Bradford** (14) **14.**
Auckland: Tries: Hoppe 2, Ridge 2, Ellis. Eru, Jones, Malam, Ngamu, A Swann, L Swann. **Goals:** Ridge 9. **Bradford: Tries:** Bradley, Ekoku. **Goals:** McNamara 3 (12,063)

Golf

GERMAN MASTERS (Berlin): **Second round qualifiers** (GB/Ire unless stated): **137** B Langer (Ger) 68, 69. **138** J-M Olazabal (Sp) 69, 69; T Gogele (Ger) 73, 65. **139** C Montgomerie 71, 68; P-U Johansson (Swe) 72, 67; T Bjorn (Den) 71, 68; A Coltart 71, 68; P Sjoland (Swe) 71, 68; J *Spence* 71, 68. **140** P Walton 72, 68; S Torrance 71, 69; G Orr 69, 71; D Howell 68, 72; E Darcy 72, 68. **141** S Jones (US) 74, 67; P Baker 74, 67; A Binaghi (It) 70, 71; R Muntz (Neth) 72, 69; M Angiert (Swe) 72, 69; D Cooper 74, 67. **142** P McGinley 71, 71; D Clarke 73, 69; P Harrington 72, 70; D Carter 73, 69. **143** T Lehman (US) 73, 70; M Gates 68, 75; P Price 75, 68; W Riley (Aus) 75, 68. **144** P Mickelson (US) 73, 71; S Ballesteros (Sp) 74, 70; F Tarnaud (Fr) 72, 72; T Johnstone (Zim) 75, 69; D Smyth 77, 67; M Roe 78, 66. **145** S Struver (Ger) 74, 71; S Richardson 72, 73; P Haugsrud (Nor) 70, 75; M Mackenzie 73, 72; A Sherborne 75, 70; M Davis 78, 69; G Evans 77, 68; R Boxall 75, 70. **146** C Rocca (It) 75, 71; P Linhart (Sp) 75, 71; P Broadhurst 75, 71; R Karlsson (Swe) 77, 69; R Goosen (SA) 74, 72; M Mouland 75, 71; S Luna (Sp) 74, 72. **147** A Hunter 75, 72; R Russell 74, 73; P Curry 74, 73; M Jonzon (Swe) 76, 71; P Hedblom (Swe) 78, 69; J Payne 76, 71; A Cejka (Ger) 75, 72; P Mitchell 77, 70; P Lawrie 76, 71. **148** W Westner (SA) 76, 72; J Rivero (Sp) 77, 71; H Clark 77, 71; M Gronberg (Swe) 75, 73; R Claydon 74, 74; J Hawkes (SA) 78, 70; G Brand Jnr 75, 73; S Cage 73, 75; A Oldcorn 76, 72; P Eales 78, 70; R Willison 76, 72; H Bjornstad (Nor) 77, 71.

ITALIAN WOMEN'S OPEN (Il Picciolo, Sic): **Leading second-round qualifiers** (GB/Ire unless stated; *=amateur): **137** V van Ryckeghem (Bel) 72, 65. **141** P Gonzalez (Col) 70, 71; G Stewart 71, 70. **142** T Craik 69, 73; H Hopkins (Aus) 69, 73; H Alfredsson (Swe) 71, 71; L Maritz (SA) 76, 67. **143** S Mendiburu (Fr) 72, 71; S Head 71, 72. **144** F Pike (Aus) 74, 70; M Preti (It) 72, 72; M-L de Lorenzi (Fr) 71, 73; K Lunn (Aus) 74, 70; T Fischer (Ger) 71, 73; S Melin (Swe) 71, 73.

BUICK CHALLENGE (Pine Mountain, Georgia): **Leading first round scores** (US unless stated): **66** M Brisky. **67** D Ogrin; D Love; G Hjertstedt (Swe); G Hallberg; B Chamblee; H Sutton. **68** T Byrum; S Skinner; A Doyle; S Pate; D Toms. **69** S Gump; B Mayfair; C Stadler; J Edwards; M Christie; B Fleisher; S Lowery; F Funk; P Goydos; D Berganio. **Also: 70** V Singh (Fiji); F Allem (SA). **71** G Waite (NZ). **73** S Elkington (Aus); P Teutaurangi (NZ); R Alarcon (Mex). **74** H Kase (Japan); B Hughes (Aus). **75** S Rintoul (Aus).

Tennis

ATP TOURNAMENT (Palermo): **Quarter-finals: A Corretja** (Sp) bt F Clavet (Sp) 7–5, 6–2; **D Hrbaty** (Slovak) bt A Portas (Sp) 7–5, 6–4; **J Sanchez** (Sp) bt M Filippini (Uru) 6–3, 1–6, 6–4.

ATP CLAY-COURT TOURNAMENT (Basle): **Quarter-finals: P Korda** (Cz) bt L Roux (Fr) 6–3, 6–4; **G Rusedski** (GB) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 7–6, 4–6, 6–3; **T Henman** (GB) bt M Norman (Swe) 6–3, 6–2. **Doubles: Quarter-finals: T Henman/M Rosset** (GB/Switz) bt P Nyborg/D Prinosil (Swe/Ger) 7–6, 6–7, 7–5.

ATP CHINA OPEN (Beijing): **Quarter-finals: J Courier** (US) bt J Krosiak (Slovak) 6–4, 6–3; **T Johansson** (Swe) bt G Pozzi (It) 6–2, 6–4; **M Gustafsson** (Swe) bt B Black (Zim) 6–4, 6–3; **K Carlsen** (Den) bt A O'Brien (US) 7–5, 5–7, 7–6.

USTA WOMEN'S CHALLENGER (Santa Clara): **Second round: M Grzybowska** (Pol) bt E Dominikovic (Aus) 1–6, 6–2, 6–3; **N Miyagi** (Japan) bt T Snyder (US) 6–4, 7–6; M Tu (US) bt J Lee (US) 6–3, 5–7, 6–4; **C Cristea** (Rom) bt E Gagliardi (Switz) 6–4, 6–4; **K Nagatsuka** (Japan) bt S Smith (GB) 6–3, 6–1; **S Cacic** (US) bt A Kremer (Lux) 6–3, 6–1; **K Brandi** (US) bt L Ghirardi-Rubbi (Fr) 6–4, 6–2; **J Nejedly** (Can) bt *R McQuillan (Aus)* 6–7, 7–5, 6–0.

LTA SATELLITE (Nottingham): **Men: Quarter-finals: D Sapsford** (GB) bt N Watts (GB) 6–2, 6–2; **A Foster** (GB) bt M Zahirovic (BiH) 6–2, 6–4; **A Popp** (Ger) bt N Weal (GB) 6–2, 6–4; **A Parmar** (GB) bt L Milligan (GB) 7–5, 6–4. **Women: Semi-finals: A Wainwright** (GB) bt K Kerner (Ger) 6–4, 6–4; **N Egorova** (Rus) bt T Musgrave (Aus) 6–4, 6–2.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Division Series: Seattle 3, Baltimore 9 (Baltimore lead series 2–0); New York 5, Cleveland 7 (series tied 1–1).

Chess

TILBURG TOURNAMENT (Neth): **Round five:** A Shirov (Sp) 0, G Kasparov (Rus) 1; J Lautier (Fr) 0, V Kramnik (Rus) 1; P Svidler (Rus) 1, T Shaked (Us) 0; J Polgar (Hun) v J Piket (Neth), A Onischuk (Ukr) v P Leko (Hun), M Adams (Eng) v L van Wely (Neth) all drawn. **Leaders:** Kasparov 4½; *Kramnik 4; Svidler 3½; Adams, Leko 3.*

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS (Erevon, Arm): **Round 10: Boys U-18:** K Mah (Eng) 1, M Avetisian (Arm) 0. **Leader:** R Ponomariov (Ukr) 8. **Also:** Mah 5½. **U-16:** N Pert (Eng) ½, P Charbonneau (Can) ½. **Leaders:** L Vagda (Rom), L Aronian (Hun) 8. **Also:** Pert 6. **Girls U-18:** T Hoang (Vie) ½, J Houska (Eng) ½. **Leaders:** R Gokaliani (Geo) 8. **Also:** Houska 6½, R Sheldon (Eng) 5.

Cricket

TOUR MATCH: Karachi: South Africa 305–7 dec (S Pollock 74no, J Kallis 52; Ali Hussain Rizvi 5–69) and 254–8 dec (G Kirsten 61; Ali Hussain Rizvi 5–57). PCB XI 132 (Ali Naqvi 61; Symcox 4–25) and 237–4 (Ali Naqvi 113, Rana Qayyum 83no). Match drawn.

Ice Hockey

NHL: Boston 6, Los Angeles 5.

Snooker

REGAL MASTERS (Motherwell): **Quarter-final: N Bond** (Eng) bt K Doherty (Ire) 6–5.

Sport in brief

Cricket

The Middlesex and England spinner Phil Tufnell will appear at a disciplinary hearing on October 24 at which the England and Wales Cricket Board will consider what action to take after his failure to supply a specimen in a random drug test during the County Championship match against Essex at Chelmsford. The Middlesex secretary Joe Hardstaff is confident that Tufnell will have a "perfectly logical explanation".

In Karachi the 20-year-old opener Ali Naqvi celebrated his Test call-up with an impressive 113 as the touring South Africans drew with a Pakistan Cricket Board XI. The home team, chasing 428, finished on 237 for four.

Motorcycling

Michael Doohan set a lap record at Phillip Island during yesterday's opening qualifying session for the Australian Grand Prix despite dangerous winds. The Honda rider, who has already clinched his fourth successive world title, record 1min 33.822sec, two seconds quicker than Japan's Takuma Aoki and 0.7sec faster than the mark set by his fellow Australian Wayne Gardner in 1990.

Sailing

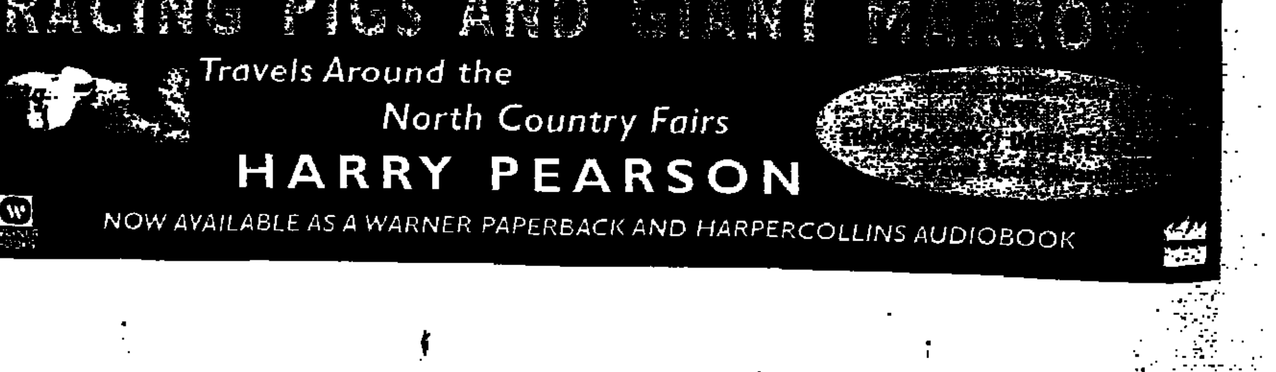
Grant Dalton's Merit Cup is making slight but consistent gains on Knut Frostad's Innovation Kvaerner, leader of the Whitbread Round the World Race, *writes Bob Fisher*. By yesterday afternoon, with the fleet some 700 miles west of Senegal, the gap between the two was 28 miles.

Motor Racing

Trial proceedings over the death of Ayrton Senna at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix were adjourned yesterday when the defendants Frank Williams, Patrick Head and Adrian Newey failed to appear in court. The three were unable to find hotel accommodation because of a ceramics fair in Bologna.

Snooker

The luck was out for Ken Doherty, the Republic of Ireland's first world champion, in Motherwell last night. He fought back from 5–2 down to force a deciding 11th frame against England's Nigel Bond in their Regal Masters quarter-final, but after securing a 38–0 lead he stumbled again to lost 6–5.



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Football

Gullit's men handed trip to Lapland

David Lacey

CHELSEA will shortly be feeling on top of the world, or as close to it geographically as they are ever likely to get. In the second round of the Cup Winners' Cup Ruud Gullit's team meet Tromso, the most northerly club in Norway.

Tromso is situated 250 miles inside the Arctic Circle. It is nearer the North Pole than Murmansk. Never will Dennis Wise have a better opportunity to discover if there really is a Father Christmas.

Not that Chelsea need shiver with apprehension. Having beaten Slovan Bratislava comfortably, 4-0 on aggregate, they should be capable of overcoming a Tromso team who, while they disposed of NK Zagreb in the opening round, should not pose too many problems.

With the first leg in Lapland, everything favours Chelsea reaching the quarter-finals of a tournament they are already expected to win. In the Uefa Cup, however, Liverpool and Aston Villa face rather more demanding tasks.

Liverpool's reward for winning the Battle of Britain against Celtic is a tie against Racing Strasbourg, the conquerors of Rangers and the club now owned by Mark McCormack's IMG sports marketing group. Again Liverpool are away in the opening leg and while the combination of Robbie Fowler, Steve McManaman and Michael Owen, with Karlheinz Riedle always ready to lend a hand, should see Roy Evans's side through, Rangers's experience will have warned Anfield against poor defending.

Aston Villa have already found scoring a problem in Europe and Athletic Bilbao usually prove obdurate, if beatable, opponents when facing English teams. A clean sheet in the Basque country would give Villa half a chance, as it did in Bordeaux in the previous round, but they may be under greater threat back on their own ground.

The draws

Uefa Cup, second round

Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) v Udinese (Italy),
Sporting Braga (Portugal) v Dinamo Tbilisi (Georgia),
Metz (France) v Karlsruhe (Germany),
Racing Strasbourg (France) v **Liverpool** (England),
Internazionale, Milan (Italy) v Lyon (France),
Rapid Vienna (Austria) v Munich 1860 (Germany),
MTK Budapest (Hungary) v Croatia Zagreb (Croatia),
Spartak Moscow (Russia)/FC Sion (Switz) v Real Valladolid (Spain),
Schalke 04 (Germany) v Anderlecht (Belgium),
Aarhus (Denmark) v Twente Enschede (Netherlands),
Athletic Bilbao (Spain) v **Aston Villa** (England),
Auxerre (France) v OFI Crete (Greece),
Steaua Bucarest (Romania) v Bastia (France),
Rotor Volgograd (Russia) v Lazio (Italy),
Atletico Madrid (Spain) v PAOK Salonika (Greece),
FC Brugge (Belgium) v VfL Bochum (Germany).
Matches on October 21 and November 4.

European Cup Winners' Cup, second round

Tromso (Norway) v **Chelsea** (England),
Ekeren (Belgium) v VfB Stuttgart (Germany),
Lokomotiv Moscow (Russia) v Kocaelispor (Turkey),
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukraine) v Vicenza (Italy),
Real Betis (Spain) v FC Copenhagen (Denmark),
AEK Athens (Greece) v Sturm Graz (Austria),
Nice (France) v Slavia Prague (Czech Republic),
NK Primorje (Slovenia) v Roda Kerkrade (Netherlands).
Matches on October 23 and November 6.

Lincoln City hit Beck after he 'grabs trainee by the throat'

JOHN BECK, the Lincoln City manager, has been disciplined by the club for threatening a 17-year-old YTS player.

Beck was given a written warning regarding his future conduct after he grabbed the trainee, Danny Lynn, by the throat and shouted abuse during a youth-team meeting.

The Third Division club's youth development association chairman, Stuart Hewson, has resigned in protest over Beck's behaviour. Hewson has taken his son Ross, who was another YTS at Lincoln, out of the club and Lynn has also left. Lynn said: "I think it should be brought out into the open. Beck has had a formal warning but I would like an apology from him."

Hewson added: "It's up to the other parents to make up their own minds and decide whether they are prepared to put up with it but now we have taken our son away."

Lincoln City confirmed a "serious incident" took place which had been dealt with. Pat Lally, the education officer at the Professional Footballers' Association, said: "As far as we are concerned Lincoln have taken appropriate action." Beck declined to comment.

Martin Thorpe finds the Arsenal captain in reflective mood, opening his mind to literature after closing his mouth to alcohol

Adams takes it one day at a time

Trying new tactics . . . Tony Adams now as combative in real life as in action for Arsenal PHOTOGRAPH: ROY BEARDSWORTH

FOOTBALLERS take every game as it comes. Alcoholics take every day as it comes. Tony Adams does both.

A year ago the Arsenal captain stuck his hand in the air, not to scream for offside but quietly to ask for his team-mates' attention before telling them that he was addicted to alcohol. It was a brave confession to make to a dressing-room governed by laddish rules where personal honesty takes a back-seat to banter.

It was a measure of the respect his team-mates feel for the man that they rallied behind him unhesitatingly.

Not long afterwards Adams made another courageous admission to the macho world of football: he revealed that instead of drinking he was now intoxicated by English literature.

"It's great, I'm really enjoying it," he said of his part-time English GCSE course. "I'm opening my mind. I've read Romeo and Juliet, a Thomas Hardy novel and a bit of Keats." He is also learning to play the piano.

Those who laughed missed the point. His unlikely conversion naturally provided an easy-target contrast to an impulsive past highlighted by loutish incidents in a nightclub and pizza restaurant and a prison sentence for drink-driving.

But for the England captain these changes mean much more. They are part of his way of wrestling free from the vice-like grip of what, with the zealousness of a convert, he now refers to as "this evil stuff". It is probably the hardest task of his life.

Basically, the 31-year-old Adams is beginning a new life, with new rules, new perspectives and help from a counsellor. He is still feeling his way, chary of ridicule while trying to make this fresh reality as habitual as his old one.

The following exchange may offer some insight into the sensitive, honest, wary and reflective man that is now Tony Adams.

The Guardian: If someone were to ask you for a thumbnail sketch of who Tony Adams is as a person, what would you say?

TA: "Tony Adams as a person? (pause) I don't think I've got the intellect to sum that up in a limited analysis. I'd be interested in what you think."

The Guardian: You seem a gentle, laid-back and reflective person, which is unusual in a footballer.

TA: "Well, thank you. Yeah, I do reflect on a lot of things. I do tend to look at myself, which I think can only be a good thing. Reflecting on how I play the game has always helped me with what's happening in my career, so reflecting on my personal life has helped me with my personal life."

The Guardian: Perhaps that's the only thing people should reflect on — themselves.

TA: "I agree. Improve oneself. That's all we can do really. To do one's best. That's it. (pause) It's never easy when you say that."

The Guardian: It's hard?

TA: "Well, there are softer options. I used to take the softer options. But I don't any more."

Adams now lives in the moment, a bold choice given that for many people it can be a frightening location. The move has changed not only his life but the way he views the game.

"You get the realisation that you're not going to have it for ever and that one day the legs will stop running," he says.

"There is a certain fear attached to that, yes, but you either respond by hanging up your boots or you go and relish every game, and that's what I'm doing.

"I'm trying to grasp the moment in games and keep on playing and enjoying it as long as I can. It has been a rejuvenation for me."

And how much has your change of lifestyle been involved in that? "Very much so, obviously."

Recent months spent sidelined with an injury have also given him thinking time. But now he is fit again and, though still finding his best form, he will be central to England's plans for winning next Saturday's crucial encounter on the green, green grass of Rome.

> 'I used to take the softer options. But I don't any more'

Will Adams feel any pressure in such a game? "Just the normal anxieties of wanting to do well for my country."

If anyone can cope, it is Adams. His club manager Arsène Wenger says he has never met anyone as mentally tough as his captain.

"He and his determination are respected by everybody," says Wenger. "He is a big influence here at the club, a good individual player, tactically strong and someone who reads the game well and quickly.

"Off the pitch, because he is very sensitive, he also feels what's happening in the dressing-room. He knows where the problems lie among the players and between them they all get solved. It doesn't even need the manager."

And the astute Wenger knows what role sobriety has played in the Adams metamorphosis. "He is at an important age when you start to think about your life and he has decided to combat his problems. It has given him more maturity."

Pleat anxious to avoid Last Post

Michael Walker takes the pulse of today's fixtures

TODAY is not the day David Pleat would wish for his demoralised Sheffield Wednesday to be facing Everton.

Lose at home to Manchester United or Arsenal and the excuses are ready-made but lose at home to a mediocre Everton team featuring a 17-year-old and two 18-year-olds and Pleat will have some explaining to do.

Should Wednesday lose, at 4.50pm the noisy, exuberant band which accompanies them to matches may strike up the Last Post. The possible absence of Des Walker, with a virus, to add to a clutch of other injured defenders, hardly helps.

Their fellow south Yorkshiremen Barnsley, one place below Wednesday but on the same points, will have less expected of them when they step out at Highbury. Arsenal, smarting from their midweek exit from the Uefa Cup at the hands of PAOK Salonika, will be keen to maintain their place at the top of the table as some form of consolation.

The other member of the bottom three, Southampton, will be looking for their second league win of the season — against a West Ham side who should include two old Dell boys, Iain Dowie and Eyal Berkovic. Matthew Le Tissier and possibly Egil Ostenstad will be the men responsible for improving a scoring rate of five goals in nine games.

Surprisingly Newcastle United have scored only one more, although in three games fewer, and, with Faustino Asprilla out for four to six weeks after an operation on his lower stomach, a new scorer is much needed against Tottenham Hotspur, especially as Spurs will have Les Ferdinand and David Ginola in their ranks.

Ginola is not expecting a sympathetic reception at his former place of employment. "I am hoping for a good one but I will understand if the fans boo me because, once you take off the zebra shirt for another one, people find it hard to forgive." Zebra?

Another man probably not expecting a very happy return is Steve Coppell, who takes Crystal Palace to Old Trafford. "I wouldn't have got into the current United side," the Palace manager says. He will be hoping that Attilio Lombardo is more inspired by the venue than most of his former Juventus team-mates were on Wednesday evening.

David May is fit again for United but there are doubts over Nicky Butt and Ole Solskjaer.

Dean Holdsworth will make his debut for Bolton at home to Aston Villa following his £3.5 million move from Wimbledon, which is good timing as Nathan Blake begins a three-match suspension. Mark Draper and Dwight Yorke are slight concerns for Villa but Yorke may play despite not being 100 per cent fit.

Leeds visit Coventry from the artificially high position of sixth but have their lively winger Harry Kewell suspended. Steve Ogrizovic will set a club record of 488 appearances for Coventry and will want a clean sheet. What price a goalless draw? Wimbledon entertain Blackburn Rovers.

Scottish preview

Celtic corner the awards

Patrick Glenn

CELTIC's improvement in the last few weeks was reflected in yesterday's awards to Wim Jansen and Henrik Larsson as Bell's Manager and Player of the Month respectively.

The Parkhead side came through September unbeaten in the league, the Coca-Cola Cup and even the Uefa Cup — although eliminated from the latter by Liverpool on away goals — and they appear to be emerging at last as a serious threat to Rangers' domestic supremacy.

"When I came here, we weren't playing as a unit," said Larsson, the Swedish forward who arrived from Feyenoord in early August and had also worked with Jansen in Rotterdam. "There was a new coach and new players and there were plenty of misunderstandings on the field, but that's been sorted out and Wim takes most of the credit for that."

Celtic, who lost their opening two matches against Hibernian and Dunfermline, are fourth in the table but only four points adrift and with a match in hand. They are at home to Kilmarnock this afternoon, with Marc Rieper and Tom Boyd available again, and if they fail to win they are likely to bust every fixed-odds coupon in the country.

Kilmarnock, knocked out of the Cup Winners' Cup by Nice on Thursday night, are already looking likely candidates for the annual dog-fight at the foot of the Premier Division.

Rangers' manager Walter Smith takes his players to Hibs tightlipped about rumours of his imminent dismissal or resignation in the wake of the Ibrox side's latest humiliating Uefa Cup defeat, by the unrated Racing Club Strasbourg. His goalkeeper Andy Goram and forward Brian Laudrup both carry Racing knocks and are unlikely to play today. There are also doubts about defenders Joachim Bjorklund and Tony Vidmar.

"Hibs have made their best start to the league for years," said Smith. "We have to put the disappointment of Europe away and work to maintain our unbeaten league record."

Beware Italy, warns Zola

GIANFRANCO ZOLA reflected the pressure growing in Italy in the build-up to next Saturday's visit of England for the crucial World Cup Group Two qualifying match, warning that his countrymen must wake up to the seriousness of the situation.

"It's time for the entire Italian camp to start worrying. I don't want to sound alarmist, but the fact is that playing English sides is not as straightforward as it used to be, as the [Juventus] match at Old Trafford proved.

"They are learning fast, and even the smaller English clubs have made good progress, especially with their tactics. There is just one way to face up to this situation — by applying ourselves and working harder than ever. If we are complacent, it will be fatal."

A N Other

ENGLAND have had better players but few have been as dedicated as this Farnworth-born midfielder whose career began alongside the game's best-known bow legs and ended, more than 20 years later, within sight of a famous victory. But not as famous, in football terms, as the triumph he shared early in his playing days.

His best years were spent among notable scientists and masters of ordnance. Later he returned to his roots but only briefly.

He twice ventured into a wooded hollow as well as travelling to the west, far and near. He also visited a former British colony.

Last week: Graeme Souness (Tottenham, Middlesbrough, Liverpool, Sampdoria, Rangers).

Performance of the week: Ryan Giggs (Manchester United), whose second inspired performance against Juventus this year led to the Champions League victory on Wednesday.

Knee injury keeps Dicks out for rest of the season

JULIAN DICKS needs another operation on the knee injury that has kept him out since March and he will not play again this season.

The West Ham captain flew to the United States on Monday to see a surgeon specialising in knee injuries and was given the bad news. The Hammers' manager Harry Redknapp said yesterday: "The surgeon is confident he can do something for Julian in the long run."

Redknapp has transfer-listed the Northern Ireland midfielder Keith Rowland and will expect to receive about £800,000 for him.

Sheffield United have given the veteran former Republic of Ireland defender Paul McGrath a one-year contract following a string of impressive displays. He moved to the Blades from Derby County on a month-to-month deal.

Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp has become the first player to win the Carling Player of the Month award outright for two consecutive months. The Dutch striker, who monopolised Match of the Day's Goal of the Month competition for August by taking the first three places, has gone one better than Robbie Fowler. The Liverpool striker won the Player of the Month award twice in succession but shared it once with his then team-mate Stan Collymore.

The Aberdeen manager Roy Aitken yesterday received a vote of confidence. His side prop up the Premier Division and supporters demonstrated after last week's home defeat by Dunfermline, but the executive vice-chairman Stewart Milne insisted: "At no time has Roy's future been discussed. We are determined to rectify the situation with him at the helm."

Attack on the record
Some Picture goes for the triple crown
22

Defence of the realm
Tony Adams back at the sharp end
23

Britain's world champion confident of beating the dangerous Pole

Big-time boxing's image goes on trial again

John Rawling in Atlantic City on the responsibility facing Lewis and Golota

HEAVYWEIGHT boxing's tarnished image will take another body blow if Andrew Golota hurls punches into Lennox Lewis's groin in the Convention Centre here tonight.

While Lewis, the 32-year-old World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, seeks an explosive victory to give point to his belief that he is truly the best, convincing a sceptical American public in the process, administrators are aware that the sport would be dragged down still further if another bout were to end in shame.

Twice last year Golota was disqualified for hitting low during non-title contests against Riddick Bowe and the sport's rulers still shudder at the thought of Mike Tyson's misdemeanours. The New Jersey boxing commissioner Larry Hazzard Jnr admits to praying that nothing else goes wrong.

"We've got a lot on the line," he said, "and all of us have a lot to lose in the sport we love so dearly. You could say controversy comes with the turf. If we can all come through we can gain some credit. If not, we'll be trashed to the bitter end."

The New York referee Joe Cortez has the difficult task of trying to keep order in a fight some fear will degenerate into mayhem. An experienced official with more than 60 world-title contests behind him dating back to 1982, the 53-year-old is "going to be fair", according to Hazzard.

"He will come into this bearing no grudges. But if Golota breaks the rules, then Joe Cortez is prepared to do what he should do in any fight. He has the guts and intestinal fortitude to penalise where necessary, and he has the guts to disqualify if it comes to that.

"Of course he's under pressure, but so are the fighters. They must understand what is at stake. They owe it to their fellow professionals and the public."

Lewis has warned he is in no mood to be "messed around" after the farcical outcome of his last two contests in which Oliver McCall was stopped after bursting into tears and Henry Akinwande was disqualified for persistent holding.

"I am fed up with it. I train to fight," said the champion. "Golota is definitely not going to make his name with Lennox Lewis. I want to stay [within] the rules, but if a guy's dirty with me I am not going to take it sitting down."

A popular theory suggests that the 29-year-old Golota is a bully incapable of taking physical or mental pressure and Lewis's trainer Emanuel Steward fears the worst of the Pole's behaviour.

"I'm not confident he will fight properly," he said. "He cannot control what he does. Whenever he is in any sort of distress he resorts to dirty tactics. There is a good possibility he will snap, throw low blows and throw the fight."

Despite his temperamental shortcomings, Golota is a boxer of considerable ability and showed himself to be technically superior to Bowe, the former champion, who is expected to be among the capacity 15,500 crowd.

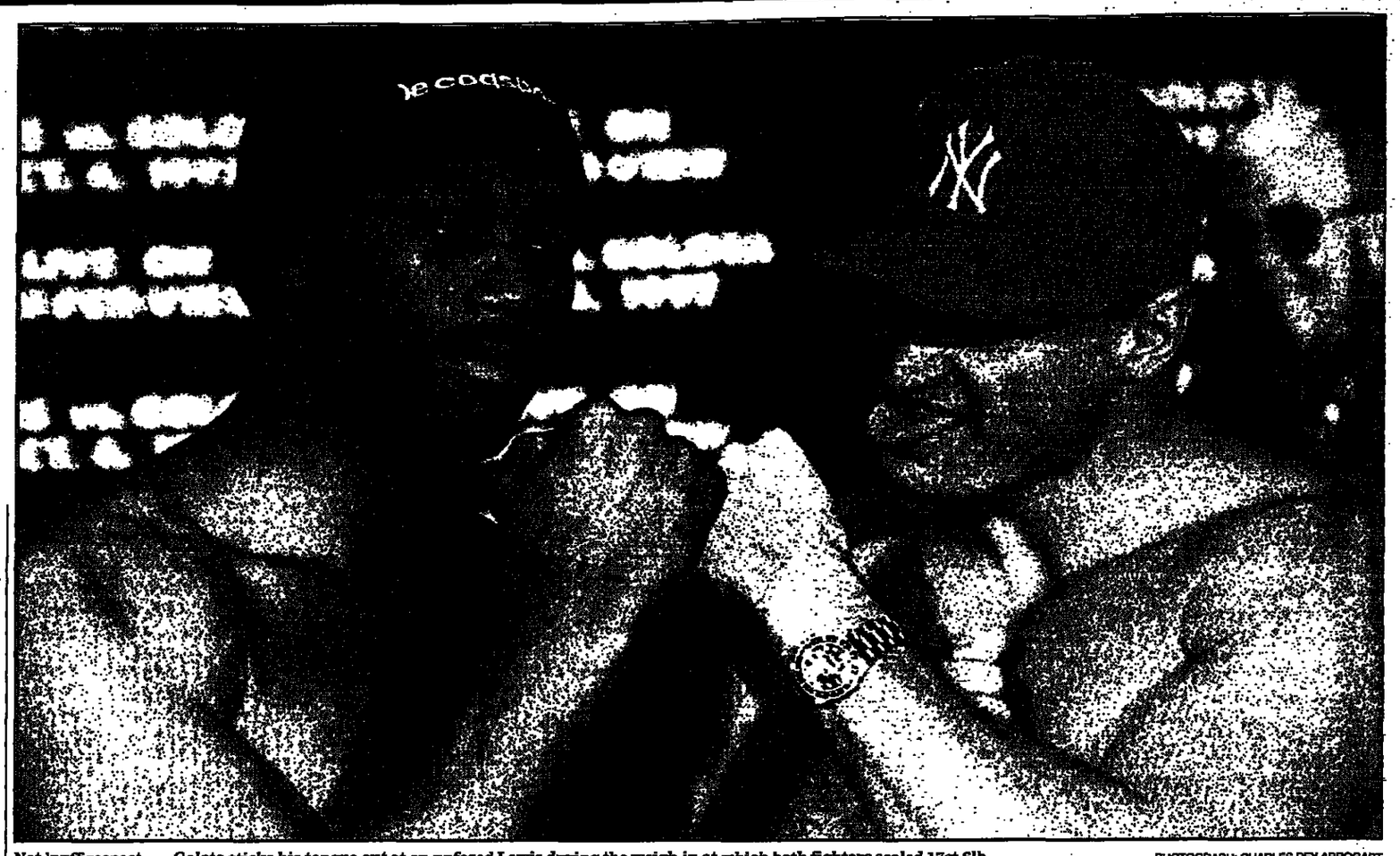
Lewis would be foolish to underestimate his talent and Steward said: "The only thing I am concerned about is that Lennox gets out there and imposes himself immediately. I don't believe Golota will stand up once he gets hit on the chin. Lennox should be too big and too strong and I believe he will win by a knockout."

Golota is unbeaten apart from the setbacks against Bowe, and the upright East European style of his amateur career has been transformed under the instructions of a training team headed by the 75-year-old Lou Duva.

The Pole's outstanding jab may trouble Lewis and Duva reckons that could be the key. "Andrew's boxing skills are being overlooked because of all the stuff about the low blows," he said. "He's a nice kid away from the ring and I believe not only that he will behave but also that he will win the title. He has an amazing will to succeed."

But in the final week of preparations Lewis has appeared composed, in marked contrast to the nervy Golota. Believing he will physically intimidate and prove too fast for his challenger, he said: "I want to show I'm the best heavyweight on the planet."

Lewis ought to have the ability to retain his title with a stoppage some time after the sixth round. No odds are being given on another Golota disqualification: that is a shame, because in this tatty gambling capital of the East Coast it might be the best bet in town.



Not 'nuff respect . . . Golota sticks his tongue out at an unfazed Lewis during the weigh-in at which both fighters scaled 17st 6lb

PHOTOGRAPH: CHARLES REX ARBOGAST

David Lacey

When refs should be interfering with play

THERE has been further evidence this week of the way the football laws are being abused — not by players, at least no more than usual, but by referees and linesmen who continue to be confused over how certain laws should be interpreted.

Law 11, which governs offside, and Law 12, covering fouls and misconduct, have always provided the game's main bones of contention. Attempts by Fifa, the world governing body, and the International Board, which alone has the authority to alter the laws, to improve the game as a spectacle by making negative tactics more difficult, have been admirable in principle but muddled in execution.

So much so that in two of this week's European matches either goals which for most of football's history would have been ruled out were allowed to stand, or a player was sent off for a crime no more heinous than attempting to take a quick free-kick.

Garry Parker's dismissal at Filbert Street was a nonsense and no more need be said about that just now, but the events at Old Trafford the following evening stimulated the offside debate.

When Juventus scored their first goal against Manchester United the defenders anticipated an offside flag against Alessandro Del Piero which never came. Television suggested that Del Piero was in line with the last defender when the ball was played to him, rather like Andy Cole against Chelsea a week earlier, but the cameras also caught Fillipo Inzaghi wandering offside.

In the second half, when Gary Pallister sent Paul Scholes through to put Manchester United in front, Teddy Sheringham was plainly standing offside. The Spanish referee Antonio Lopez Nieto and his linesman obviously felt that Sheringham was not interfering with play but until recently the flag would have gone up before Scholes had a chance to shoot.

Team games need offside laws to prevent an unruly assembly of players queuing up near goals, try-lines, ice hockey cages or whatever in order to score on the cheap. In football the avoidance of offside sharpens the wit of an attacking team because it demands a higher level of skill and awareness in making a pass or a run.

There have ever been only two fundamental changes to this law. After 1925 there had to be just two rather than three opponents between the attacker and the goalline to keep him onside. And since 1990 a player has no longer been offside if he has been in line with the last defender.

ON BALANCE the recent change has been to football's benefit. A quick player can now place himself at a defender's shoulder and spin off his opponent to receive a pass without being wrongly pulled up for offside, which is what used to happen.

Yet what is a cause for concern is the apparent abandon with which a player is allowed to move offside and stay offside, confident that play will not be stopped even if he is "gaining an advantage by being in that position". The grey area still surrounding interference with play needs to be more strictly defined.

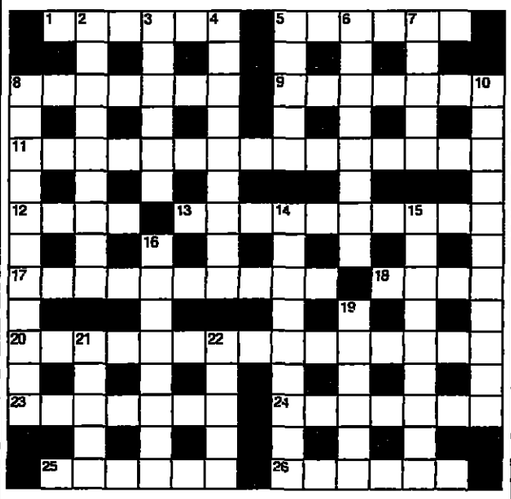
For a time referees were asked to imagine the pitch divided into three corridors so that, for example, if an attacker was loitering in an offside position on the left, a legitimate move would be allowed to proceed on the right. But the corridors have now become a freeway, so much so that the offside law in football is fast becoming akin to offside in rugby union, where attacking players can mill around in front of the ball at will provided they do not actually touch it.

When Ray Tinkler, refereeing a match between Leeds United and West Bromwich Albion at Elland Road in 1971, overruled a linesman because he decided that Albion's Colin Suggett was not interfering, the resulting goal and West Brom victory produced a riot. Now, in effect, it is the linesman who has to judge if a man in an offside position is an influence on the play. Surely this is best left to the referee.

There is a danger of the original purpose of the offside law, which was to keep the game open, being obscured as teams defend deeper and goalmouths become ever more crowded. Goals are fun and more so when offside traps have been sprung. But weakening that spring risks upsetting the precise balance between attack and defence upon which the success of football as an entertainment rests.

Expensive skills do not need cheap thrills.

Guardian COLLINS Prize Crossword No 21,086



Set by Bunthorne

Across

1 False prophet about domestic chore (3,3)
5 Hibernian-Sino tribesman (6)
8 These rituals in the Villa Rose genre? (7)
9 Western hero playing Gloriana in the pianoforte versions (7)
11 I hold new, hard boose; due, unfortunately, to duty (6,9)
12 Invented by Ruckert? (4)
13 Thus maintaining her silence no doubt (7,3)
17 Coney Island's races in odd location (10)
18 South African agency so evil-eyed? (4)
20 Hasty action we map out with a repeater (9,6)
23 Permanent wave rulers follow bearing and other things around (7)
24 So Hiawatha lately to his hunting-ground? (7)
25 Detached to cover point initially (6)
26 Reach breaking point (6)

Down

2 Purge 501 at a German orgy? (9)
3 Whoopee! A French king in the black (6)
4 Indian corn? (9)
5 One who could stand a headache (5)
6 O-object about this: Ee-by-gum, thats a cutting remark (8)
7 Vale of Thiers (5)
8 Weight lifter driven with one rim cable (6,5)
10 Close order of dry-stone walling (11)
14 "Right, can I help?" (Boar's Head regular) (6,3)
15 Dr 'oover's rival is something of a 5 down (4,5)
16 Shared around Paris in 1871 (8)
19 Some of them penalised with such a stretcher? (6)
21 Council's last case officer (5)
22 Floored by hat diameter (5)

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to The Guardian Crossword, P.O. Box 14641, London, EC1R 3JX, or Fax to 0171 278 9115 by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday October 13.

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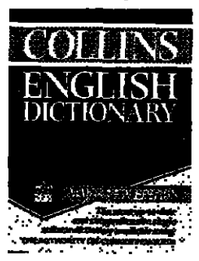

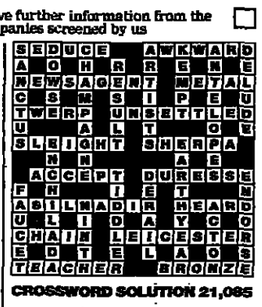

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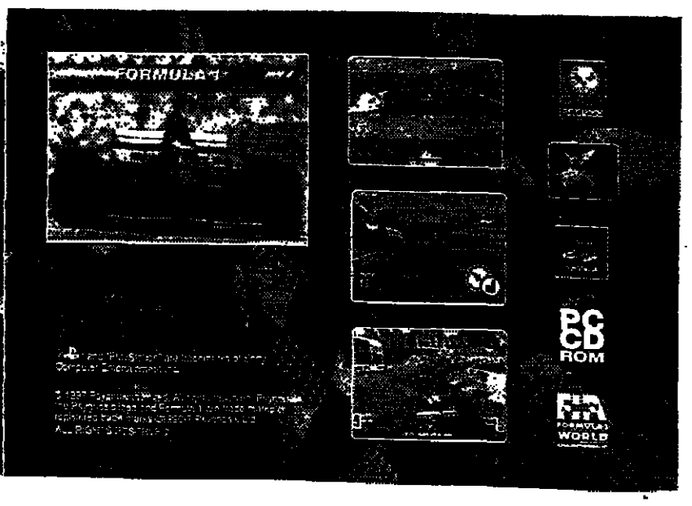

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